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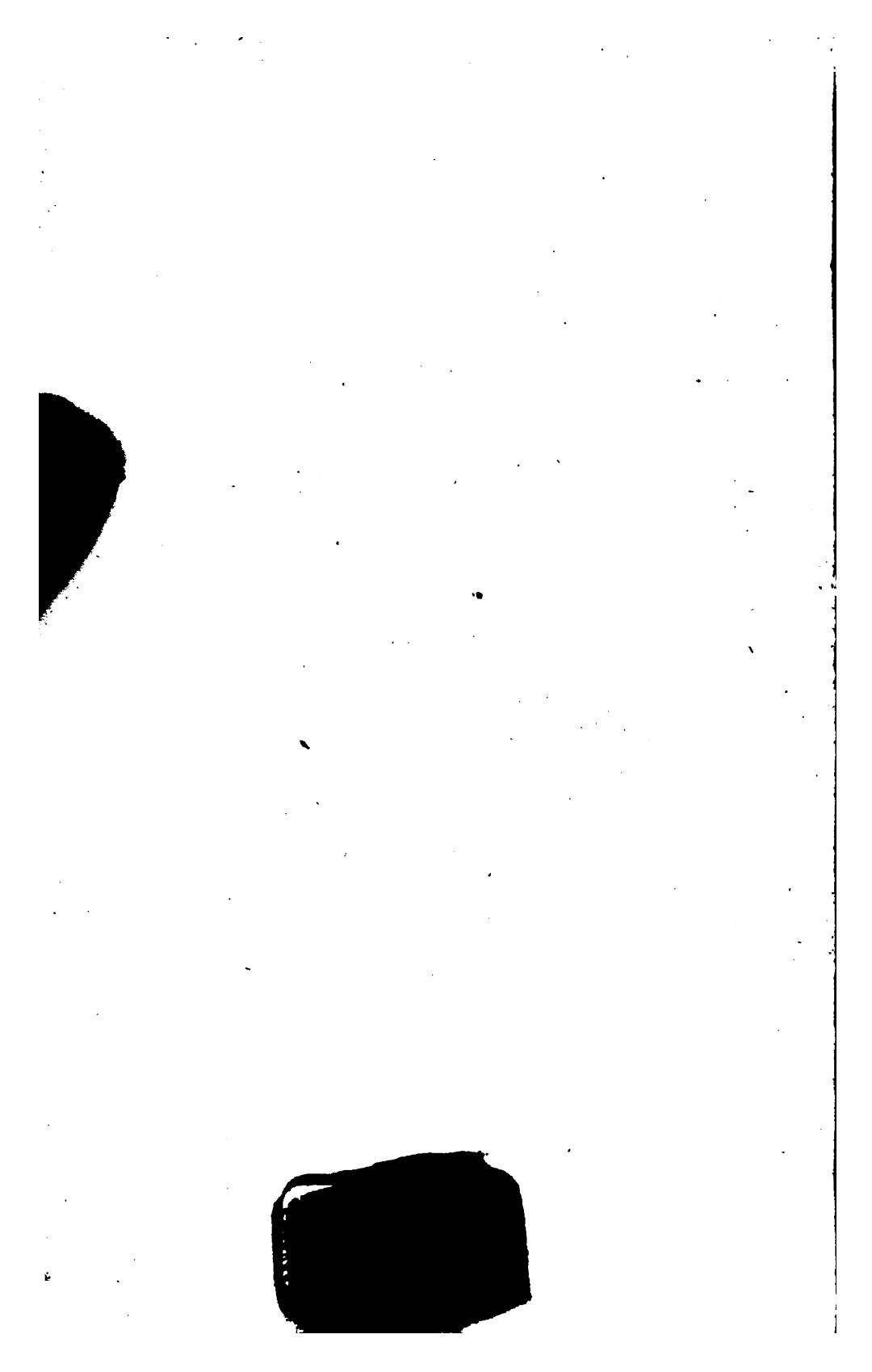
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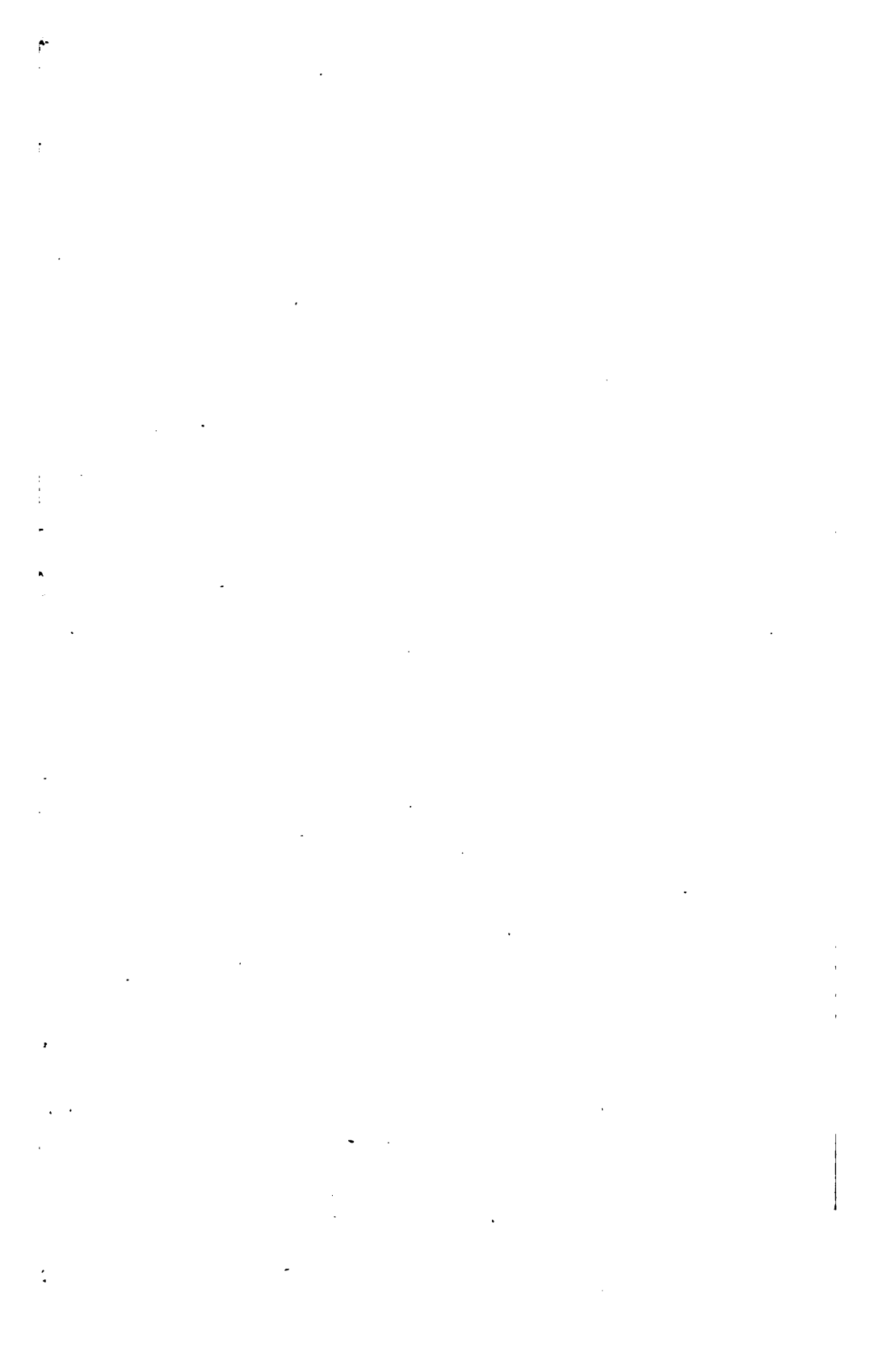
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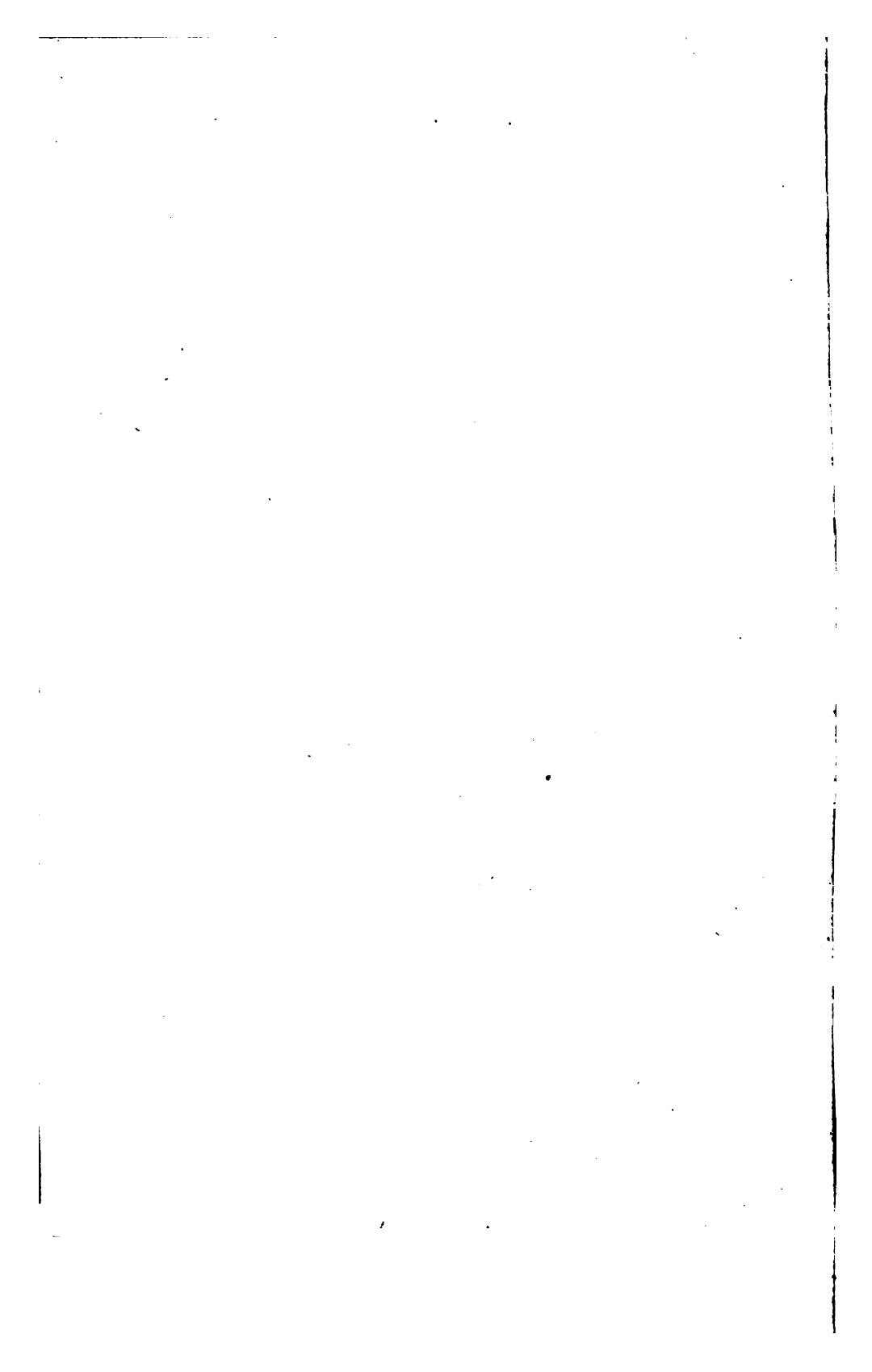
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A
COMPENDIUM
OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE
POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT,
WITH SOME
PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS
ON ITS PRESENT RESULTS, AND FUTURE APPARENT
USEFULNESS.

By EDWARD HUGHES,
OF SMEETH-HILL HOUSE, KENT,
VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE EAST ASHFORD UNION.

" We must not make a scarecrow of the Law,
Setting it up to frighten birds of prey,
And let it keep one shape till custom make it
Their perch, and not their terror." SHAKESPEARE.

LONDON :
HATCHARD AND SON, PICCADILLY ; J. AND A. ARCH, CORNHILL ;
AND EFFINGHAM WILSON, JUN., KING WILLIAM STREET.
AND MAY BE HAD OF ALL BOOKSELLERS IN EAST KENT ; MESSRS. HALL
AND SON, MAIDSTONE ; CADELL, ROCHESTER ; AND DENNETT,
CRANBROOK.

1836.

King, Printer, College Hill, City.

**TO THE CHAIRMEN, VICE CHAIRMEN, AND
GUARDIANS, of the several UNIONS of EAST KENT.**



GENTLEMEN,

In dedicating so trifling a production to you, as I have now the honour to introduce, under the appellation of “ A Compendium of the Operations of the Poor Law Amendment Act, with some practical Observations on its present Results, and future apparent Usefulness,” I should have felt more than ordinary diffidence, but from the kind assistance rendered me by many individuals of your respectable body, who have so considerably facilitated my success in an enquiry into those consequences which your exemplary attention to the onerous duties of your situation has produced. These embolden me to invite your perusal of the pamphlet I lay before you;—not from an idea of its affording any novelty, in its detail, to you who are so perfectly acquainted with the operations of your respective boards ; but from the desire I feel to stimulate others to proffer to the public such new matter as they conceive may be useful to our future procedure ; so that one system may hereafter prevail, founded on the basis of the most widely diffused, and general usefulness.

Thus, by an endeavour to re-animate the peasantry to their former independence, economy,

and morality, aided by an effort to restore the mutual good feeling which formerly existed between them and their employers, you may be instrumental to the permanent establishment, throughout this mighty empire, of *religion* without *hypocrisy*; *morality* without *affectation*; and *economy* without *improvident parsimony*! This would, I am convinced, afford to you and me, the most satisfactory recompense for our anxiety, and exertion; and if, through your means, aided by a philanthropic public, I should be enabled to add to the funds of the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, by presenting the proceeds of my pen, (during a severe indisposition), to that benevolent Institution, I should feel additionally gratified.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient and obliged humble Servant,

EDWARD HUGHES.

Smeeth Hill House, Kent,
1836.

A COMPENDIUM, &c.



A great difference of opinion prevails as to the working and consequent utility of the "Poor Law Amendment Act." As this may in some measure depend upon the *mode* of carrying this prominent Act of Parliament into execution, and those to whom this is entrusted divide the responsibility of its success or failure, with those who so satisfactorily exerted themselves in the senate; it may not be amiss for individuals from among the guardians of the several unions throughout England and Wales to state the proceedings of the boards to which they severally belong;—this would at least give publicity to the different systems now adopted for carrying the law into execution, in which I know that certain variations at present exist, and from making these peculiarities generally known, much good I imagine may accrue, by the adoption of that particular system of management which appears more adapted to the end in view, more in accordance with straightforward justice, more in the spirit of English charity, and generally more desirable than others.

Every impartial man who has at all considered the subject, must be aware that the 43rd of Elizabeth, the basis of the abrogated law, had become, from the rust of time, and a complication of other events, most shamefully abused; not only by the paupers themselves, but by the local authorities, such as Overseers and their assistants, tradesmen likewise, who were too frequently contractors, or what was worse, served out the different articles required by the pauper from their own stock, instead of paying him money to go to market on the best terms; and this too, either from

the authority of the parish officers, or from the appointment of Overseer being vested in himself. The former, it must be acknowledged, was not always immaculate, the poor poverty stricken farmer was not wholly free from mercenary feeling! It not unusually happened that many persons in parishes in this county (Kent) imagined, or fancied they imagined their inhabitants were inadequate to employ, and pay the whole of the laboring population on their respective farms; the consequence was, that in many parishes the surplus was placed on the public roads; continued there for a time, till the rate-payers were annoyed by *this* mode of procedure, and perceived that a mere modicum of work was performed, though a poor's rate was quickly swallowed up. "Necessity is the mother of invention;" this, though impotently, usually produced its own antidote; as the alternative which generally followed this system was the removal of a portion of the men from off the roads, and proffering their services to the farmers on reduced terms, by paying from the poor's rate a large proportion of their wages. It was not very unusual to find from 20 to 30, and in some instances 50 per cent. was thus paid by the Overseer. In this mal-administration of the law, the more mercenary farmer enjoyed advantages (if there are those who on reflection really could *enjoy* such reckless griping) over the man of better feeling; he hesitated not to discharge his workmen, those he had been wont to employ at the market price of wages, for the pitiful and sordid hope of making a few pounds by the circumstance alluded to, and by taking into his employ those whose wages were to be derived in part from the parish rate;—thus the liberal and honest man (for I can but consider the avarice of the former to be a species of dishonesty) paid his laborers a fair market price for their employ, and a portion of his niggard neighbour's also. This, in my opinion, an opinion which has *nothing* but *practical experience* to recommend it,

was the most deteriorating, vile, and corrupting system which could have arisen; and the consequences of it were fatally destructive to morality, industry, and subordination! Whilst the men were congregated on the public roads, they not only felt deteriorated from receiving their weekly stipend from the frigid hand of a parish officer, but were excited thereby to plot mischief in the day to be executed at night; generally having one to watch their employer, the Overseer, Surveyor, or other influential personages, whilst others concocted schemes of plunder and obscenity; hence followed that moroseness of manner and roughness of deportment which was formerly unknown to the Kentish peasant; that insubordination and restless hankering after mischief which founded a new character amongst us.

“ A hungry man is an angry man.”

Thus resort was had to the poor, pitiful, and pusillanimous conduct manifested to their employers, by waging war against the threshing machines, —and I here beg to admit that *I was one of the many who came under the ban of the misguided labourers*, notwithstanding I was, at the very period, keeping for my workmen no less than *eleven cows, on very moderate terms!* This headstrong and riotous procedure was at length stayed; chiefly by the determination of the employers to oppose force to force, aided by the official authorities; and after very considerable devastation and mischief, no doubt increased and prolonged by the generally received opinion that no law then extant exactly met the case. This deficiency has, I believe, since been remedied, by an augmentation and amendment in the penal code. It was strongly suspected that a few of the smaller farmers and others who knew better, advocated the cause of the rioters, and even joined in their nocturnal depredations! A short calm only intervened between this banditti system and the still more *cruel, abandoned, and fiend-like practice and crime*

of Arson! a practice which perhaps it is not too much to suspect was engendered amongst the congregated numbers on the public roads; these all tend to show the baneful effects of that system now happily obsolete, which I trust has been destroyed by its own deformity. How had the law of Elizabeth become metamorphosed from its original intention and usefulness? Were the senators of that day enabled to revise their own act, they would exclaim, that such a desecration of its purposes had rendered it so dissonant with the original, as to cause the discrepancy to appear more than marvellous;—they would exclaim, “We legislated to preserve the old, lame, blind, and helpless from abject poverty and wretchedness, but you have superseded our intentions by encouraging idleness, whoredom, and general dissipation; by credulously attending to stories composed of fraud and chicanery; and without due investigation, have aided and abetted the practice of imposition!”

About the month of March (I think it was on the 2d or 3d), Sir F. B. Head, as Assistant Commissioner, called a meeting by public advertisement, of the magistrates, proprietors, and rate-payers, at Elham, which was pretty numerously attended;—several of the divisional magistrates were present, as well as other proprietors and rate-payers, with many parish officers. My brother and I attended the meeting; it was professedly called for the purpose of ascertaining the sentiments of the people upon the important subject of yielding up the Elham Union, incorporated under Gilbert’s Act, for the purpose of embracing the “Poor Law Amendment Act;” and here occurred another striking instance of the so frequently observed instability of human nature. Previously to the commencement of the business of the meeting, several of the guardians of this Union came to me and my brother for advice how to proceed, informing us that they and their colleagues at the board were decidedly of opinion that it would be

advisable for them to reject the offer and desire of the Assistant Commissioner; and not to interfere with their present system of Union; which they stated had been eminently beneficial to the several parishes incorporated; that they continued to improve, and had become quite adequate to the management of their parochial affairs, &c., &c.; adding, that with a very trifling exception (I think only one), they were determined to withstand the solicitation of the Assistant Commissioner, and consequently adhere to their present condition; begging at the same time our opinion on the practicability of their being safe in this position. We remarked that, presuming they were legally incorporated, and held fast their resolution, they could not be compelled to abrogate or dissolve their Union; but, I continued, "you must maintain inviolate a strength amounting to two-thirds of your whole numbers, to preserve your position; for if ever the Assistant Commissioner drives you to a vote with less than that proportion, you become vulnerable, and your Union ceases to exist."

Sir Francis now entered, and, after a little arrangement, moving into a larger room, &c., the magistrates arrived, when we had an assemblage of nearly two hundred persons. Wm. Deedes, Esq., of Sandling, was called to the chair, and, after opening the business of the day in his usual clear and appropriate manner, called on the Assistant Commissioner to state the particular object of the meeting. To this Sir Francis, at great length, responded; partly by reading a paper adroitly drawn up for the occasion, and at intervals addressing the meeting, to show the utility of the new system. Though this gentleman is not what would be generally termed a fluent speaker, he possesses great tact and cleverness at interesting an auditory. His matter is always cautiously selected and well arranged; and the encomiums on such parts of the subject as are favourable to his

purpose are such as he uses every effort to impress on his hearers, which savour rather of redundancy than otherwise ; whereas, the smallest error of his opponent is visited with all the pungent sarcasm, the deteriorating ridicule, and the subjugating irony his fertile imagination can invent. Sir F.'s artillery is of a various calibre ; his first essay is made on an opponent with all the gentlemanly courtesy one used to the precincts of a court could present ; he enforces this by a winning address, made more attractive by softness of voice, an agreeable smile, and almost invariable attention to good breeding ; these, accompanied by an easy, graceful manner, with rather more than ordinary politeness, are all levelled at the strong hold of an adversary's citadel. If the lodgement be successful, and he make a conquest, nothing can exceed his attractive smiles, and the warm welcome he proffers his late opponent, now probably become his ally ; this I think I may fairly denominate his light field-pieces : should these be unavailing, and they sometimes required auxiliary aid, his next effort is perceived in the mystification of the subject, by travelling circuitously to the most difficult point, by keeping the weaker part of his subject as much as possible in the back ground, and by maintaining a front comprised of those points on which his opponent no longer wages war, endeavouring by every energy he possesses, by all the technicality of a soldier inured to tented fields, to wrest from him the formidable weapon he continues so unrelentingly to grasp ; should this fail him, he evidently evinces annoyance, and what some persons would imagine rather waspishly seizes his remaining weapons, leaving his artillery to their fate. Then follows the dernier resort, which we may consider his battering train—the " Poor Law Amendment Act," which he almost shakes in the face of his opponent, quoting clause after clause in reply to the arguments brought in battle array against him ; notwithstanding these are founded

on *reason, justice, and humanity*, the law is imperative, and the competitor is beaten. Should any of my readers have observed the foregoing rule of action, they may not have forgotten the reminiscences which sometimes shot across the mind of the gallant knight; these, after some apparent hesitation, he not unfrequently brought forward in support of his antecedent argument, and, like a new quiver filled with arrows, supplied the renovated prospect of victory.

After the address terminated, through the whole of which there was an unusually attentive auditory, the subject being quite novel, there commenced a long, and I believe to the Assistant Commissioner at least, a tiresome continuation of interrogatory, chiefly, nay almost exclusively, emanating from my brother and myself; perhaps we had a little more experience of the effects of the old law than our competitor, but I venture on this supposition hesitatingly; however it is possible to suppose that we were acquainted with the state of the peasantry in the local districts, their necessities and comforts, their pretty strongly manifested determination to oppose all innovations upon the old law, and their wonted customs, manners, and habits. For a considerable period the Assistant Commissioner kept his equanimity and general courtesy, but there were certain questions at length propounded, which evidently annoyed him, and towards the termination, he was nearer losing his good humour than I ever saw him afterwards.

I recollect a few of the arguments which took place between my brother and myself, on the one side, and the Assistant Commissioner on the other; —we combatted his assertion that the independent laborer was in a state bordering on starvation; the Assistant Commissioner observing, that his situation was far more lamentable than the pauper's, that he had the greatest difficulty to provide food, and any thing allied to clothing for a squalid family, whereas the pauper lived in a good house,

had plenty of food, and other necessities; was well clothed, had a cheerful fire to resort to, and had no care for the future; how opposite to this, said he, is the case of the independent laborer! a wretched hovel, scarcely equal to shelter him from the pitiless storm; he, his wife and children, probably all stewed up in a single chamber; and as to his fare, he possibly did not taste meat for weeks, or even months together! To which I replied, "I am truly grieved if such be the case in any part of East Kent, but I am quite satisfied it is not so in the parish in which I reside, nor in its immediate vicinity: every man I employ, as a resident of that parish—I have reason to know eats meat, and I hope and believe almost, if not always, daily; nor do I believe we have any laborers in the parish who do not procure that necessary sustenance *frequently*, for I am confident I have those about me (ladies I alluded to) as well as my brother, who would quickly be apprised of such an event, did it exist; and that we should very shortly afterwards be acquainted more minutely with it; I must conclude therefore that it is, with one exception, a mistake; I mean as to the dormitories; I can say but little upon this head, as in many instances this cries *aloud* for alteration and redress; I have frequently expressed this, and as a small proof thereof, I have no cottage but has *more than one bed-room!*" Mr. George Hughes said "I entirely agree in my brother's opinion; I consider (turning towards me) to be worse off than any other man in our parish; and I have reason to know he has meat, not unfrequently too, tho' I cannot affirm that he partakes of it *every day*, which I believe many of our poor men do;—their custom is, and a very good one I consider it, to fatten a pig, and some of them two within the year; so that almost always they have pork in the tub and a pig in the sty. I must conclude that your information, sir, is not procured from the neighbourhood in which we live, and therefore take leave to ask you whence these

facts are derived?" To this the Assistant Commissioner rather hesitatingly stated, they were not obtained from our vicinity, but that at Canterbury he went into the shop of a Carver and Gilder, where he found the wife and children at dinner, and perceiving a dish of potatoes only, he said "my good woman I hope this is not the whole of your repast:" the poor woman, the Assistant Commissioner stated, burst into tears, admitting that the potatoes he saw were the whole of her dinner, and that such *alone* was her general support.— This appeared the only instance he had to adduce; but I fear we omitted to put another very necessary interrogatory, viz. whether the husband was an *idler, drunkard, or a gambler?* this would probably account for the solitary case brought forward to exemplify the high sounding eloquence of the Assistant Commissioner.

Another subject of disputation was the illegitimate, or what is more usually termed the "Bastardy clause." I stated that I had great apprehension that a poor distressed woman would frequently, when too late, bewail her condition;—deserted in the midst of abject poverty—uncared for, nay reprimanded, and morosely treated by those from whom she would fain hope for solace and assistance;—mourning the loss of her seducer, (for she yet loved him) a heavy load of duty resting on her, for the maintenance of herself and babe,—and withal a conscience troubled by vice and exposure. Is it not probable that this accumulation of distress, will sometimes be the means of her deserting her infant, and becoming guilty of the crime of infanticide, and rendered more wretched still by a phrenzied horror of the future, augmenting the criminality by plunging into the abyss of self destruction?

I admit the hope, and certain degree of probability, that it may tend to cause females to be more cautious how they commit themselves; but "human nature is *only* human nature, and will be no more

till the end of time.”—My brother said, “ a poor unfortunate, though indiscreet woman could not possibly support herself and infant, during the *few* first weeks of her confinement, and in the country it was notorious there was very little to be done by females during the winter months on the land ; he feared much was to be apprehended, but fervently hoped he might be in error ;—at least it was a *bold*, and he suspected a *dangerous* experiment.”

In his reply, the Assistant Commissioner stated that we, like others he had heard, had assumed a false principle ; that instead of curing the gangrene, our humanity would tend to foster and encourage it ; that nearly a century back the House of Commons decided that a hospital should be erected for the reception of exposed and deserted young children in London ; that to render it more efficient, the committee should be empowered to appoint proper places in all counties, ridings, and divisions in the kingdom ;—that £10,000 was first granted by parliament ;—that on the first day of general reception 117 babes were handed in ; and that by the 31st of December in the following year, a fruitful harvest was gathered into the metropolitan barn, consisting of *five thousand, five hundred and ten* little babies ;—after which, county hospitals were established in several parts of the kingdom, while large rolls of county governors, committees, &c. &c. were created for their management.” In his “English Charity” we find the following glow of imagery indulged in : “ like fiddle strings in damp weather, apron bands now began to snap in all directions, white tape and stay-lace rose in value, pap and caudle bore a premium, babies caulcs were all the fashion.—In less than three years the House of Commons saw its error, and manfully endeavoured to correct it, but the system could not at once be arrested ; the little babies who, summoned by parliament, had most innocently arrived, could not be put to death ; those on the march could not be now stopped. As quickly as possible

however, parliament drew in the horns of its charity, by gradually withholding its support ; but not until Old England had purchased sucking babies and experience at the enormous national cost of *four hundred and fifty thousand pounds !!*"

The Assistant Commissioner appeared desirous of still combating our apprehensions upon this clause, and said, "you gentlemen have pursued the beaten track ; it is false humanity ; it is a prostitution of your reasoning faculties thus to argue ; I am aware that not only senators, but divines have boisterously contended, that to relieve the man from punishment in such cases, and to expose his unhappy victim to shame, infamy, and distress, is impious, cruel, ungenerous, unmanly, and unjust !—Has not the conjoint pecuniary punishment of the sexes been ineffectually resorted to ?—has it had the desired effect ?—has it intimidated the enemy ?—has it strengthened the fortress ?—has it preserved the citadel ?—for consenting to do so, has not the law almost invariably rewarded the mother with a husband ? I contend, therefore, it is in vain to suppose you will ever cure the evil complained of by what I am sure you would term the more humane method. I repeat, gentlemen, it has been tampered with too long already ; a new, prompt, and determined measure will be adopted ; you *must* cause the woman to reflect, and tremble at the ensnaring efforts of the abandoned seducer ; and then, and not till then, you will erect a barrier sufficiently strong to resist the attack ; enhance the reputation of your peasantry, and greatly diminish the quantum of this lamentably prevailing vice."

I admit this reasoning had a considerable effect upon me, and we made but a feeble rejoinder, restating the apparent cruelty to the female, and our apprehension for the consequences ; that whilst this mode might instil a greater degree of caution on the part of the woman, the other sex would, from an increased impunity, feel proportionably

reckless, with an enlarged determination to effect his natural propensity to evil ;---that in our opinion it would be far more difficult to controul the law of nature by a senatorial enactment than the worthy gentleman conceived, or would fain have us imagine, and as the result was only in embryo, no determination could yet be concluded on.

“ And what unto them is the world beside,
With all its change of time and tide ?
Its living things—its earth and sky—
Are nothing, to their mind and eye.
And heedless as the dead are they,
Of aught around, above, beneath ;
As if all else had passed away,
They only for each other breathe.”

We had stated our conviction of the hardship to be endured by the separation of men from their wives, persons who had lived together perhaps for twenty, thirty, or even forty years. Was it, we urged, to be supposed there was no tie of affection and attachment from time and consanguinity ?—no feeling in the bosom of those persons because they were poor ? Would not the secession from the usual habits and customs of the peasantry become productive of irregularity ? Would it not lead to apathy and carelessness for each other, trench on morality, and ultimately end in adultery ?—evils which did not greatly prevail at that period. The worthy gentleman here resumed his good humour, and with much appositeness replied, “ that it was no greater hardship for these persons to be separated than for the officers and soldiers of his Majesty’s army and navy ; they (said he) are ordered on foreign service, and off they go, leaving wife and children behind.” It was in vain that we urged the one was a voluntary separation, the other a compulsory one. “ No, no,” replied the Assistant Commissioner, “ there we are upon a par ; it is quite optional whether the parties you advocate go into the contemplated Union house ; the guardians will not “ send for them !” The altercation was continued in the like strain of argument, fraught with so much

verbosity and detail, as to destroy the interest the reader might otherwise feel in its continuation.

Another proof of the tact and management of the Assistant Commissioner was evinced at the termination of this controversy, when he most gravely stated to the assembled numbers, that as the guardians of the present Union would have another opportunity of considering their own situations presently, they had better not declare their opinions, or vote upon *that* occasion ; thus preventing opposition from the most suspected part of the meeting. The Chairman then called for a division in a somewhat novel mode, desiring all those who were *adverse* to the introduction of the "Poor Law Amendment Act" to manifest the same by holding up their hands. This had the desired effect. Not a single opposing hand was raised ; but when the question was put, that all those in favour of its introduction should do the same, very few hands were held up. And here it would have been perfectly easy for my brother and me to have achieved a victory over Sir Francis ; but although we *then* disapproved of the measure in part—although the peasantry were averse to its being tried, as we well knew ; yet, as it had become the law of the land, it was, we considered, our duty to try it, and we could not conscientiously so decidedly oppose it ; and fortunately for our consistency we stopped here, as we have both, upon becoming better acquainted with the practical operation of the law, waived our opposition to *most* of its leading clauses, and are now using exertions to carry it on with mildness and graduation ; which I conceive to be the most efficacious mode of ensuring its success. I ought to have stated ere this, that I have dwelt at length on the particulars of the formation, or preliminary meeting thereto, of a Union under the "Poor Law Amendment Act," in the Elham division ; whereas we, the parishioners of Smeeth, are attached to the "East Ashford Union ;"—previous to this ours was a bordering parish of the Elham division.

After this somewhat tedious digression, I would fain recur to the further proceedings of the meeting, and endeavour to elucidate the instability of human resolution, as alluded to in page 8. I there stated that the guardians were to meet the Assistant Commissioner again on that day, which took place in the presence of the magistrates; when the hearing more of that excellent logician, Sir Francis Bond Head (backed by the magistracy), caused the guardians very quickly to succumb, by assenting to the surrender of their Union,—a surrender of *that system* which, as they previously said, had done so much for them and their parishioners—*that* on which their eulogy to my brother and myself was dealt out with so much energy, and with so ardent a feeling—*that* on which they were so *united*,---and that, from which they were determined, three hours before, *not to depart*!! Thus ended a meeting, at which was founded the “Elham Union;” Sir Francis propelling these successes with all the ardour of a victorious general. Soon after this appeared his celebrated address in the Quarterly Review, entitled “English Charity.” In this heterogeneous, though talented production, the author burlesques the poor-houses of East Kent. In giving a sketch of the River workhouse, he states that it is on the great Dover road, is about three miles from the town, is a splendid mansion, which Mr. Robins would designate as “delightfully situate, and fit for the residence of a county member, or a nobleman of rank; modestly retired from the road, it yet proudly overlooks a meandering stream; and the dignity of its elevation, the elegant chasteness of its architecture, the massive structure of its walls, its broad double staircase, its spacious halls, its lofty bed rooms, and its large windows, form altogether a delightful retreat,” &c., &c. After some further extravaganza, our author, in p. 475, adds, in allusion to the houses for the poor, built under Gilbert’s Act, “Some are lofty, some low, but all are massive

and costly ; indeed it would seem that, provided the plan was sufficiently expensive, no questions were asked." Ibid. In allusion to the interior, he proceeds thus : " In one large room we perceived a group of motionless, worn out men, with age grown double, but neither picking dry sticks, nor mumbling to themselves ; with nothing to do ; with nothing to cheer them ; with nothing in this world to hope for, with nothing to fear ; gnarled into all sorts of attitudes, they looked more like pieces of ship timber than men." Then follows a description of certain poor old women, in which the castigating pen of the author is not so callous or severe. He finishes his remarks on the River House with a comment on bed-ridden men and women. " All," says he, "*separate, of course,* present a set of wrinkled faces which seemed more dead than alive ; they were wanting nothing, asking for nothing, waiting for nothing but their death." At p. 476 we find him visiting the Coxheath Union house, in West Kent. Here five old men, whose names are given, and whose ages stand thus---ninety-nine, ninety, ninety, seventy-six, and seventy-five, are represented to be leaning towards " the lad Latherby," the younger ; who was monotonously reading to them a prayer from a tract published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. After inserting the prayer, *a most appropriate one*, the author thus proceeds ;—" On taking the pamphlet from his hand to copy the words into our note book, the five men never altered their attitudes, but during the whole operation, sat like the frozen corpses, which, in Napoleon's retreat from Moscow, were found still in the attitude of warming their hands round the white dead embers of their departed fire." The volatile author, in the following page, states his entrance into the apartment of able bodied women, who were ordered to rise from their chairs in honour of the strangers ; the humorous gentleman adds, " In their robust outline, certainly

no *wrinkles* were to be seen; whatever was their complaint, they equally laboured under it all; nature's simplest hieroglyphic sufficiently denoted their state,

"And coming events cast their shadows before."

"Adjoining this room was a den of convalescents,—a little land flowing with milk and honey, which is easier imagined than described;" after descending the staircase he perceived "a body of sturdy labourers, out of work, clad in dirty smock frocks, and hob-nailed half boots, sitting round a stove, with their faces half roasted; they had generally an over-fed, mutinous, and insubordinate appearance; a room filled with girls from five to sixteen, and another with boys, completed the arrangement; they were said to be completely separated, *i. e.* they could not possibly meet without going up stairs which was forbidden." In another case, they were, strange to say, *separated* "*till dusk*," though they met whenever it pleased them in the yards;—"such is the general state of the large poor-houses of East Kent." I can but admit the too great accuracy in the observations relative to the defective classification in our late regulations for poor-houses, and the general deficiency of arrangement so unworthy of adoption in the new ones; still I must be permitted to state, that the portraiture here given is too highly coloured by the exuberance of the writer; his object appeared to be to forward the object of his mission at all hazards; and although the mode should not always bear the strictest test of scrutiny, yet the impetus of his extended views being once put into motion, cannot, *must not*, be relaxed, till it arrive at the terminus of his imagination: and although we can but be pleased with the talent, humour, and variety of matter introduced, yet from the glowing style of some of his descriptions, I fear they will lose a portion of their effect unless his readers increase their faith in the sincerity of the narrator. The following (no doubt, a fact) is whimsically delineated; "In a dormitory for able bodied men and their wives, I found each

bed to be separated from its neighbour by an old blanket; in this society of low life above stairs;— in this chance medley of ‘*les frères et les sœurs de la charité*,’ it must be supposed that the ladies first modestly retired to their nests; yet we could not help fancying that if husband A, should happen unintentionally to make a mistake, the position of his shoes might perchance throw B, C, D, and the rest of the connubial alphabet all wrong. Whether such a higgledy-piggledy arrangement be creditable or not to a civilised country, it is not our present intention to enquire.” In the following pages he facetiously plays upon the illiteracy of governors of poor-houses, &c.; one is represented as saying “there is no stinting here; we give ’em as much victuals as ever they can eat.” It is very true that the ploughman has as much as ever he can eat, *provided always*, says the unwritten code, that he clears his plate before he asks for more; in order, therefore, to obtain a third edition of meat, he must previously manage to swallow greens and potatoes enough to choke a pig; and as he is confined to the sty with no other work to perform, our readers will not perhaps be surprised at our previous statement, that the able-bodied pauper in the poor-house has the *tight* appearance of being overfed.” Some fastidious reader may consider this statement to be considerably, or perhaps, far too highly, overdrawn; I admit there may be a mean between certain imagery in the recitals of the writer and the dry matter of fact, but the vivacity and versatility of talent we perceive throughout the address, far outweighs the exuberance occasionally indulged in.

“ Authors are partial to their wit ’tis true,
But are not critics to their judgment too?”

After enumerating the paupers and their costs in some of the old establishments, inserting letters and certificates from the masters of work-houses, and others, declaratory of the diet of these receptacles for paupers being far superior to many of

the rate-payers, the independent laborers, and particularly to that of the Deal Boatmen; those of Margate, &c. he proceeds, by stating the somewhat extraordinary particulars of the Kentish peasantry; I say extraordinary, because it strikes me as rather contradictory, a very unusual circumstance with this author, diversified as are his productions;—"but if these letters do not, the Kentish fires throw light enough on the effect of this system. In no region, it has been our fortune to visit, have we ever seen a peasantry so completely disorganized. In no enemy's country that we have seen, have we ever encountered the churlish demeanor which these men, as one meets them in the lanes, now assume. Perfectly uneducated,—neither mechanics, manufacturers, nor artisans,—in point of intellect, little better than the horses they drive, they govern in a manner which is not very creditable to their superiors. Their system of robbing corn for their horses has, they believe, been almost sanctioned by custom into law; and as, with something like justice, they conceive they are entitled to be higher fed than the scale established for the pauper, nothing they can honestly gain can possibly be sufficient to make them contented; and yet the countenances of these country clods are strangely contrasted with their conduct. We would trust them with our life. In no country in the world are there to be seen infants, boys, and lads of more prepossessing appearance; honesty, simplicity, and courage adorn them; proving that they are the descendants of those who were once complimented by the remark that they were 'Non Angli sed Angeli,' their women, like their hops, have ten thousand clinging, clasping, blooming, undulating beauties; and there seems to be no reason why, of their lovely native county, it should not still be said, 'Ex his, qui Cantium incolent longé sunt beatissimi.' But it is not of their materials we complain, it is only of our own workmanship; our poor-laws have ruined them!"

I think it must be admitted on all sides that our Assistant Commissioner was an admirable agent to the government which selected him; his warmth of imagination, great knowledge of the human heart, fervid zeal, habits of industry, and persevering talent, eminently qualified him for the onerous duty he had to perform. At the period of his commencement he had a phalanx of opposition to contend with, not only from the peasantry, but from *many* respectable and well educated men; men who could speak their sentiments, "and tell the tale of other times."

Thus were extreme caution and unwearied diligence necessary; these, united to the promptness of character Sir Francis possessed, and the fine store of intellect so prominently visible, enabled him to encounter, and eventually beat down all opposition to his plans; his was a chivalrous undertaking. It may be truly said "He fought and conquered."

The state of men's minds had become agitated, difficulties had long environed those far removed from cities, and every change was anticipated with caution, if not with suspicion; the landlords hesitated; the farmers more than doubted; the peasantry diametrically opposed the change; so that, at the onset, all parties in East Kent were either sullenly contemplative, or inclined to opposition; the poverty so generally prevalent had impressed the people with a feverish irritation, and many amongst us looked with suspicion on his neighbour; confidence was greatly estranged; and the time appeared to have fled when prosperity and happiness were to be found in our dwellings; our horizon had become dim, and we required something to irradiate our hemisphere.

"Time was when, in the pastoral retreat
Th' unguarded door was safe; men did not watch
Th' invade another's right, or guard their own.
Then sleep was undisturb'd, by fear, unscared
By drunken howlings; and the chilling tale
Of midnight murder was a wonder heard
With doubtful credit, told to frighten babes."

About the period Sir Francis B. Head held his meeting at Elham, he had been most indefatigably engaged in dissolving Unions under Gilbert's Act, and afterwards in building on the superstructure of some of them; and raising entirely new houses on the ruins of others. No less than ten Unions in East Kent were, within a very few weeks, formed by his enterprize and industry, viz. Faversham, Milton, Sheppy, (Isle of) containing a population of 9847 from seven parishes, no less than 7922 of which are represented as residents of the parish of Minster, in which is situate the town and dock-yard of Sheerness; these three Unions were declared to be formed from the 25th of March, 1835. After a short visit into West Kent, where two Unions were planted, he returned to the formation of the "Blean," "Bridge," and "Isle of Thanet" Unions, which were declared to be united from and after the 20th of April; "Eastry" was next the object of completion, which was declared to be formed from and after the 27th of April; "River" came next in rotation, which the reader may recollect possessed the "mansion so delightfully situate, and fit for the residence of a county member or a nobleman of rank;" this was declared from the 29th of April; the East Ashford followed with twenty-two parishes on the 3rd of June! The Assistant Commissioner, it appears, was entirely foiled, after a considerable controversy with the guardians of a little Union said to be formed under Gilbert's Act; who adhered firmly to their determination not to dissolve, but to continue to manage their own concerns without the interference of strangers; they were, as they considered, amply secured by the impenetrable shield of parliament; and such was the impression of Sir F. B. Head for a certain time, but upon a later and more minute investigation, made by the present worthy Assistant Commissioner, E. C. Tuffnel, Esquire, it was found that their non-conformity to the necessary deed of incorporation, with some

minor infraction of the law, entirely vitiated their Union; some of these irregularities, I apprehend, must have been latterly suspected by the late Assistant Commissioner, who in his "English Charity" states, the only efficient resistance he met with in East Kent was to be found in a little Union of three parishes. "In the whole of East Kent there was one little Union of three parishes which alone resisted every argument the Assistant Commissioner could use; we will not even name its name, it being quite sufficient to observe that the governor of the workhouse, ordered by Gilbert's Act to be appointed by the guardians, received his salary without even living in the poor-house, and that the said governor was actually one of the guardians; in fact he had appointed himself. With this exception, the old Unions in East Kent being by consent of their guardians, all levelled to the ground, and the whole district willingly submitting itself to the recommendation of the Poor Law Board!"

The "Elham Union" was declared to be formed on the 3rd of June! On the 31st of October the district of Romney and Walland Marshes was declared to be united. This Union, tho' containing a population of only 5140, has a rental amounting to £90,000 per annum; but as it has been so short a period only in operation, I think little could be gained by the information I have obtained upon the general subject of its management or success.

I expect on an early day, through the kindness of the chairmen and the clerks of the several Unions, the former of whom have been addressed for the purpose of obtaining information from the fountain head, to be enabled to state the expenditure of each *parish*, or what every *Union* has incurred for the maintenance of its poor, since the declaration of its formation; and afterwards endeavour to show what effect the present system has produced on the parochial taxation, by a com-

parison with the anterior average of three years, according to which each individual parish is assessed, for its proportion of salaries and the general disbursements. This I ardently hope, and have no hesitation in believing, will show a *most considerable* diminution in the expenditure on the pauperism of East Kent; highly augmented in value by an increased evidence of moral feeling, with its usual concomitant,—*a more general diffusion of human happiness*;—all these are, I think, quite compatible with the recently improved system of management; the mode of purchasing necessary food and clothing; the diminished expense in house rent; that of medical aid; with the *last* named, though by no means *least* in importance, *the necessity which the farmer now, though late, perceives, of employing the people on his farm*; the diminished expenditure at pot-houses, with a more general system of frugality, all contribute to benefit the situation of the country.

“ The end of all good government,
Is the benefit of the governed !”

May the “ Poor Law Amendment Act” achieve this !!

And here I am about to state an opinion which may not be quite agreeable to the most sanguine of the approvers of the new law, though I am gratified by acknowledging that, from the experience I have had, in the results of a twelvemonth’s trial, that it will, in my opinion, prove highly beneficial to the community at large. I would, however, caution those who are engaged in agricultural pursuits against too full a persuasion that the large diminution in the expenditure on the pauperism of their various parishes proves all that they desire should be manifested from their necessary change of pecuniary circumstance; no, I conceive it to be *very far from this*;—the decreased demand on the farmers for poor’s-rate, I have no doubt will be found to range from 35 up to 55 per cent., and in some instances, I should not be

surprised if it were to exceed even this large amount; but it must not be forgotten, that there is more than one cause why this is effected; and one at least why it does not all go into the relief of the pocket of the agriculturist. It is well known that in most of the disbursements of the parishes of East Kent, many items appeared which did not in reality apply to the maintenance of the poor; such as emigration expenses, county rates, work done on the highways, payment of pauper rents, medical bills, clothing ditto, funeral charges, and what was too frequently the case, the addition to the inadequate pay of the farmer's laborer, from the *parish funds*; and, though I admit many of these were deducted from the accounts of the three years from which the average expenditure was drawn, yet it must, I think, be notorious, where parishes were incumbered by the occupation of farms, the accounts were rendered so unintelligible and intricate, that it was next to impossible to disentangle them; this perhaps may be supposed one cause why the averages should assume a somewhat higher aspect than they would do where no extraneous items are (as in the present rule) suffered to appear;—another, and in my view of the case, a far more important reason may be assigned, why the farmer must not expect the whole of the diminished poor's-rate to be saved from his pocket, or that he is so much richer at the year's end by the alteration,—we may suppose a case:—a parish which had fifty laborers, and that out of this number it very generally happened that thirty were paupers;—that the average expenditure of the parish was £600 per annum under the old law, but that from the present system, instead of there being thirty pauper families, they are reduced to fifteen, with some casualties;—we will presume that the saving in the poor's rate amounts to 50 per cent. or three hundred pounds per annum, exclusive of the moral good it achieves; this is certainly a very large saving, and is attractive to

the farmer, naturally enough; but there is now the other consideration to be brought into the account; it must be admitted, first, that all the fifty laborers require the same quantity of food for sustenance as they did before the change, and their other *necessary* expenses remain unaltered, and secondly, that they must receive the amount of their subsistence *from* and *out of* the same parish; as they did previous to the alteration of the law. I could imagine the following dialogue between a few of the most calculating landed proprietors and their tenants:—

Landlord. “Good morrow Mr. A. I am glad to see your corn looking so favorably,—what think you of the working of the new poor law? *I am pleased* to find it is operating so satisfactorily; I find our poor’s-rate does not cost us more than one-half of what it did a twelvemonth ago;—really I *do* hope things are beginning to take a favorable turn; we have all of us in the country had to struggle with a host of difficulties for a long time; a period almost enough to dishearten persons from having any connexion with land who can do without it; but corn is a shade better, and wool, as well as meat is selling well, is it not?”

Tenant. “Yes Sir, corn has sold a little brisker for a few weeks, but then it did not rise till mine was pretty much all gone;—as to wool, my little is not of much account; and I reckon meat wo’nt hold up long now the grass is come.”

Landlord. “Oh yes, I hope it will at a fair remunerating price, that is best for us all; you and I have gone on pretty smoothly together, and I trust we shall continue to do so. I have been thinking that we should both of us partake of the benefit of this change;—I do not wish to be hard upon you, as you know, but I hope you will agree to pay me now, *one* of the *two* fifty pounds a year I took off during the time things were so desperately bad with us all.”

Tenant. “Why Sir I heard this question argued

the other day; my neighbour, Mr. C. said, that although the saving appeared very large in amount, that he did not consider 'it was all gold that glittered,' for although the men looked out for work a *good deal more* than they used to do, yet that they must all live; and that their pay still came from the farmers."

Landlord. "Well, suppose *that* to be the case, now they get work on their *farms* performed for their money; before, the work done on the *road* was worth next to nothing to them."

Tenant. "But Sir, he made out that we farmers would have more to pay out of our pockets; but I thought I should like to tell you about it Sir; and therefore I took it down."

Landlord. "Well, let me hear, how did he make it out? I do not know!"

Tenant. "He said, before the law was altered, we had thirty paupers on the books, and that we had but fifteen *now*; but as there were fifteen less paupers, there were just so many more to work; and as they were all paid from the pocket of the farmer, this came to more money than the charge of keeping them without work."

Landlord. "Well it may *possibly* be as he says; but suppose it *is*, the farmer gets his land better cultivated, and will, in all probability, grow more corn from it; this, if judiciously done, ought to pay him well."

Tenant. (drawing a paper from his pocket)

"Mr. C. made it out in this way:

There are 15 men more to employ,	52 weeks
he said, at 12s. per week.....}	£9 0 0

Say for 52 weeks, the amount is	£468 0 0
--------------------------------------	----------

Then he reckoned 2s. a week more }	
for the children of each family ... }	78 0 0

Making.....	£546 0 0
-------------	----------

A drawback of 2 days in a month for }	
illness and bad weather..... }	44 11 5

	£501 8 7
--	----------

	£	s.	d.
Brought over	501	8	7
Now Sir, if we take the saving of poor's-rate at	300	0	0
It leaves us more to pay every year..	£201	8	7

I cannot make out how this is to be done; for 'twas almost *impossible* to pay the poor's-rate *before*, and now we seem to have a *good deal* more to pay; 'tis a kind of *conundrum* to me how it's to be done."

Landlord. "It appears to me that the statement cannot be much wrong, as we all agree that it must be right to employ the men; but the improved culture should doubly pay the difference. I trust this and the price, will enable you to give me the little increase of rent."

Tenant. "I cannot think how it is to be done; if corn was to rise, I *might* do it; but I am sure it can't be done without it does Sir;—I was quite hoping the change would do something more than this for us."

Landlord. "Well Mr. A., good morning; we have had a long gossip I think."

Tenant. (making his bow) "good morning Sir."

From what I have been enabled to observe, it appears to me that the new principle of management will re-organize, in the minds of the workmen, a basis of economy, independence, and morality; I trust one will produce the other; the man who sees the necessity of laying by something for old age, would quickly perceive the baneful effect drinking would have on his economical plan; that industry, economy, and sobriety must unite to enable him to succeed;—the spirit of independence, of late years so ruinously sacrificed to supineness, inebriety, and a deteriorating apathy, will be stimulated by an economy, producing a monthly saving; and which, impressing a reflective satisfaction, will, almost in opposition to the workman's natural feeling, teach him to shun the drunkard, the idler and marauder; he will *justly* estimate himself as one of a superior class

of society; his demeanor towards these, (perhaps his former comrades,) notwithstanding an effort to suppress it, will frequently evince an unwillingness to associate with them; and a conscious superiority will be manifest.

I have imagined for some time past, and frequently expressed it, that these alterations and improvements will, eventually, create another grade in society; a grade of peasants above the paupers; this would stimulate men to value reputation, and prize it even to veneration, as did our illustrious bard :

“ Princes and Lords may flourish or may fade,
A *breath* can make them, as a *breath has made* ;
But a bold Peasantry, their country's pride,
If *once destroyed*, can *never* be supplied.”

The evil of deriving the subsistence of the laboring population from a parish fund, had, prior to the passing of the “ Poor Law Amendment Act,” become more and more apparent. The custom of allowing parochial aid to large families, whether the parents were employed or not, so generally prevailed, that the men looked to the parish funds (with few exceptions) as naturally, and with a supposition that their claim was founded on the like basis of legitimacy as *that* demanded of their employers. The custom of allowing a man and his wife parochial assistance towards supporting a family of children which exceeded two, or three, in many districts, had implanted itself so deeply, and had received the nurturing aid of the parochial magistracy so generally, and for so long a period, that it had become, by the support it received from this portion of the judicial authority, *all but law* ; nor can it be at all surprising that men, the employers and employed, all with difficulties surrounding them, should act in opposition to each other, intimately connected, as the farmer and workman was by the almost daily intercourse passing between them ;—the employer complaining (for nearly twenty years past) that the expense of

labor, poor's-rate, tithe, and rent, were more than he could pay, with all his industry, coupled with an economy entirely unknown at any former period of his life, and now enforced by *necessity, dire necessity alone*; whilst the latter said he was incompetent to support his family without the assistance he had so long been accustomed to receive; and if it happened (which it rarely did) that a man was, by a parish vestry, refused a continuance of the pay he had for some time been wont to consider his due, it not unfrequently occurred that an appeal was made to the first petty session that assembled within the district; the appellant making complaint of "*his money*" being stopped without cause; that he had the same number of children now that he had ever since the pay was laid on; and that he could not possibly live for less." In these cases, it was not very uncustomary for the cause to be left undefended by the overseer, or, in legal phraseology, "judgment was allowed to go by default;" this, I imagine, arose partly from a desire to save the time and expense of the parish officer, and the remaining portion, from the little confidence the vestry placed in a confirmation of its own act; as the antiquated law of the land had long since been supplanted by the law of custom and generous feeling, towards that class which had an *appearance* of exterior difficulties exceeding those of the farmer; but although the philanthropy of the magistracy may be, and to a moderate extent, I think justly so, admired; cases should have been more closely scrutinized, before adjudication; as I am fully persuaded that there are very many of the smaller rate-payers who are, *at least*, equally environed by difficulty as those (or a considerable portion of the most competent class of workmen) who received parochial aid.

My experience (I hope, based upon rigid impartiality) has, for upwards of thirty years, uniformly led me to believe, that there is no class of

persons in the country, who work and fare harder than the *little farmer*; not only does he "rise up early, late take rest, and eat the bread of carefulness," but necessity obliges him to abridge himself from those indulgences enjoyed by the workman, even by his own, (for he is sometimes necessitated to employ one); I mean his pint of ale, and therewith a pipe, on Saturday evenings; he works harder with his hands, being employed more hours, exclusive of the mental difficulty of fearing from period to period his ability to discharge rent, tithe, poor's rate, or tradesmen's demands; and such has been, for many years, the state of this grade of society, that men whose fathers throve by their industry alone, have, with a rather increased than diminished diligence, accuracy of management, and an economy far greater than that exercised by the hired laborer, been obliged, by the untoward circumstances of recent times, to *succumb*, and add to the already swollen catalogue of pauperism.

From the antecedent observations, it may reasonably be concluded, that such persons would not, in my opinion, materially (if at all), injure their situation, either in their habitual employ, or its pecuniary amount; but if we admit this, we must acknowledge there is a certain degree of *independence* instilled into the breast of almost every man, which implants a debasing feeling on exchanging his situation with one who has enjoyed a *less* enviable condition, even though this preference lay only in the estimation of the public, and without the smallest reality as to comfort and contentment. Thus, from a reduction in a certain regiment, the junior Sergeant, *may become*, without any fault, on the completion of such reduction, divested of his standing, by being placed on half pay, pensioned, or descend to the rank of Corporal, and through the same necessity, the latter goes down to the private soldier; yet, should the same amount of pay be continued, either from pension or other reward, to these

persons for services, their scale or rank in the regiment sinks, and they, though not really deteriorated, feel to be somewhat lowered in the estimation of their comrades. This may not *exactly* be borne out amongst military men, but whether the simile be drawn from these, from clerks in public offices, or other large establishments, it may be fairly used as elucidative of the feeling incident to mankind.

Thus it appears, that even the hardest working farmers, with all their industry and frugality, with all the caution necessarily observed by the wife, their sons and daughters; the sons holding the plough, and partaking in all the most laborious operations of the farm, whilst the latter milked the cows and beat the butter, the father churned, and the mother afterwards carried to market,—assisted in reaping the harvest, making the hay, and other industrious pursuits, with so much interest and anxiety, calculated on as principals in the payment of rents and other outgoings; yet with all these desiderata,—with the father's canvass frock, and thickly nailed half boots; the fustian jackets as the Sunday costume of the sons; the frugal meal of coarser bread from the refuse wheat; the substantial standing dish of salted pork, and the skimmed milk cheese, made by the thrifty housewife; all these have, of later days, been inadequate to enable men, even of such a stamp, to pay the various calls made upon them. These considerations, of which many instances are constantly occurring, force the *experienced* individual to admit "There is something rotten in the state of Denmark," and strongly serve to prove, that the many, and constantly resorted to charges and *facts*, as they are termed, of a *certain order* in the state, are made too unhesitatingly and without duly investigating the principles of their own *fallacy*. It is the frequent, and, I may say, the general theme of this *certain party*, not only to

decry the farmers of a different grade in society, by a vituperant envy, but to laud and over estimate the prospect and condition of the *little farmer*, who supplies it with poultry, butter, fatted pigs, and other luxuries; these highly ingratiate him in the estimation of the bloated alderman,—the high fed prebend,—and the retired tradesman; whose taste vitiated by luxury, disposition soured by an inadequate stock of mental research, aided by mortified pride, and his time (formerly actively spent in habits of trading), hanging heavily on his hand, may now be said to be consumed by literally *living to eat*; these are causes why, *among many others*, the speculations of the theorist are so entirely divested of truth, as relate to the prosperity attending the working farmer. I know, from a long experience of their situation, the reality is diametrically opposed to this;—that among the numerous class of cultivators, designated gentlemen farmers, there should be some who have acted indiscreetly, extravagantly, and, I will go the length of stating, *profligately*, I do not for one moment desire to deny; but that this order of men is more carried away by their lusts, or have broken through the limits of their grade in a greater degree than *many* others in the state, I am *not prepared to admit*.

“By the Lord, Horatio, these three years I have taken note of it; the age is grown so affected, that the toe of the peasant comes so near the heel of the courtier, he galls his kibe.”

‘The taste for disparaging others, through inuendo, or censuring the absent, has, for a considerable period, obtained; and any comment on this unenviable custom, may not, even here, I think, be inappropriately inserted.

“It is so pat to all the tribe,
Each swears ’tis levelled at me.”

The days are gone by for farmers to get money by agricultural pursuits; some fortuitous circum-

stances may combine to achieve this for a few of these, as well as of any other portion of the community ; but the by-gone days are not likely to recur, when each harvest-home was a joyful period in their history ; when the produce was deemed equally safe, whether embarked by the farmer's homely dwelling, or secured at the distance ; whether lodged in the rustic granary, or its amount placed in the coffers of his long standing customer, the miller 'of the neighbouring market town ;— then 'twas said,

“ He stopt, and leaning on his fork,
Observed the flail's incessant work ;—
In thought, he measured all his store ;
His geese, his hogs, he numbered o'er ;
In fancy weighed the fleeces shorn,
And multiplied the next year's corn.”

But having again considerably digressed from the subject of poor law management, it is time for me to commence the details of the receipts and expenditure of each Union, as well as I am enabled to do from the materials I possess ; this I shall relate with as much impartiality and simplicity as the subject demands, and the nature and extent of my information will permit.

To commence with the Sheppy Union, of which G. B. Chambers and John Pratt, Esquires, are the chairman and vice-chairman, aided by a board of twelve guardians. This Union contains only seven parishes, with a population of 9,847 inhabitants ; of these 7922 are represented as residing within the parish of Minster, where the town of Sheerness has been built, which has greatly increased its population of late. I have always understood that this district was particularly well regulated prior to the alteration of the law, which may account for the saving of expenditure, as compared with the average disbursement for the maintenance of the poor for the three preceding years, being less than in several other Unions of East Kent. The following are the particulars handed me :—

Parishes	Ave- rages £	1835. Midsummer			1835. Michaelmas			1835. Christmas.			1836. Lady-day.			Total. £ s. d.	
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
Eastchurch	906	110	15	2	99	18	4	135	7	2	152	0	7½	498	1 4
Elmley	85	3	18	6	4	2	6½	7	8	0½	7	14	8	23	3 9½
Harty	142	12	5	9	12	3	5½	16	1	6½	16	17	2½	57	7 11½
Laysdown..	118	20	7	1	19	6	8½	22	2	9½	23	9	2½	85	6 8½
Minster....	4700	1076	8	6½	859	13	4½	948	13	7½	986	0	5½	3870	15 11½
Queenboro'..	708	114	9	5	90	4	1	107	3	9	120	2	3½	431	19 7
Warden....	36	7	1	3½	7	7	9½	9	10	2½	11	11	0	35	10 4
Average £ 6695		1345	5	9	1092	16	4	1246	7	1	1317	15	4½	5002	5 7½

Thus it appears that the savings produced from the operations of the "Poor Law Amendment Act," amount to a fraction over $25\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., for the twelvemonths the new system has been adopted. The officers are paid as under :—

R. Edmeads, Esq.....	£20.....	Auditor.
Rev. William Bowman	£30.....	Chaplain.
Edward Eastman	£70.....	Clerk
J. and E. Lyford.....	£65.....	Governor and Matron.
Messrs. Cullen & Son.....	£170.....	Medical Officers.
W. Fishenden.....	£90.....	Relieving Officer.
Charles Peters	£50.....	2nd ditto ditto
W. Groves	£ 9.....	Porter.

Neither schoolmaster nor collector has been appointed at present; this board holds its meetings on Wednesdays, and the area of the Union, viz. from Harty to Queenborough or Sheerness, is about twelve miles, but the breadth, from Minster to Elmley, does not exceed six miles.

Mr. Chambers obligingly replied to a part of my letter as under :—

"I feel pleasure in stating, for several years I have not known the labourers so *generally employed* as at this time; I am not aware of *one* able bodied man of good character being out of employ. The inmates of the house are generally satisfied with their situation;—I am a frequent casual visitor, and hear all grievances; but have heard no complaints worthy of notice for several months."

This gentleman has subsequently taken the trouble to hand me the following additional infor-

mation, viz. at the formation of the Union, 619 persons were found receiving weekly relief; at the present period (the 14th June), only 437 remain on the books of the relieving officers. The following statement is presented me of inmates of the house, for the week ending the 14th June, 1836:—

Men,	{ Able bodied - - - -	0
	{ Old and infirm - - -	24
	{ Ill and lame - - -	12
Youths, from 8 to 14 years		21
Boys, from 2 to 8 years - -		9
Women,	{ Able bodied - - -	11
	{ Old and infirm - -	24
	{ Ill and lame - - -	6
Girls,	{ from 8 to 15 years	18
	{ from 2 to 8 years -	14
Infants - - - - -		6
Total		<hr/> 145 <hr/>

There are sent from the parish of Minster 119; Eastchurch 14; Queenborough 11; and Harty 1.

Having addressed the chairman of the Fever-sham Union, requesting certain necessary particulars, I received every attention from the worthy gentleman, who speedily forwarded to me the information I required. This Union is on a large scale, and contains twenty-five parishes, with a population of 14,845 inhabitants, a chairman, John Neame, Esq.; a vice chairman, Alfred Cobb, Esq.; and twenty-four guardians; Faversham is the only town within the Union; it contains a population of 4,429 persons; and sends two guardians to the board; this Union comprises a district of land of more than a medium value; and on this account is less likely to have previously suffered so severely as the poorer soils: it will be found to have succeeded in its efforts to reduce the rates, in a very considerable ratio, from the following particulars of 48 weeks disbursement:—

PARISHES.

	Averages.	Relief from May 1 to July 3.	To Michaelmas.	To Christmas.	To Lady-day.	Total.
Badlesmere ...	113	14 14 4½	13 10 6½	11 2 11½	12 16 9½	62 3 7½
Boughton ...	1439	109 12 2½	182 1 0½	170 1 1	185 7 8½	647 2 1
Buckland	25	1 2 0	1 12 6	3 19 6	4 6 0	11 0 0
Davington ...	126	9 14 6½	13 5 11	19 1 0	19 1 11½	61 8 5
Doddington ..	983	66 7 10½	84 5 2	121 4 0	128 17 1	400 14 1½
Dunkirk	996	60 4 3	81 5 8½	84 14 1½	111 5 9½	337 9 10½
Eastling	213	16 7 10½	14 18 0½	28 9 0½	28 8 6	88 3 5½
Faversham ...	3878	201 18 8	372 7 5	422 15 6½	560 13 7½	1557 15 3
Goodnestone..	93	13 18 8½	9 12 6	11 6 2½	12 18 6½	47 15 10½
Graveney	320	25 4 7½	40 0 6½	38 2 1	45 3 4½	148 10 6
Hornhill	726	57 5 2½	63 9 11½	70 15 0½	78 11 7	270 1 9
Leaveland....	92	3 17 10	12 11 4	11 1 7½	15 18 11	48 9 8½
Luddenham ..	142	12 14 4½	21 11 0	22 3 1½	25 1 4	81 9 9½
Lynsted.....	1076	65 18 2½	78 11 1	95 0 8½	123 10 3	363 0 3
Newnham	388	27 18 4½	36 12 2½	41 19 2½	42 13 8½	149 3 6½
Norton	220	9 5 10½	19 12 8½	19 14 11½	25 1 11	73 15 6
Oare	137	6 13 9½	10 16 11	12 9 3	17 18 3	47 18 2½
Ospringe	919	49 9 9½	122 10 9	137 2 4½	167 4 9½	476 7 8½
Preston	884	72 19 3	116 19 0	127 11 8½	154 2 2½	471 12 2
Selling	951	79 19 4½	152 9 0½	139 0 7½	167 17 4	539 6 4½
Sheldwich ...	440	26 2 3½	51 13 0½	44 12 11½	61 7 6½	173 15 10½
Stalsfield	368	19 8 6½	28 17 6	33 4 8½	40 1 2 3	92 4 11
Stone	155	13 14 1½	22 16 10½	25 11 8	30 2 3	295 9 9½
Teynham	951	50 8 11	54 14 8	87 13 5½	102 12 9½	305 6 0½
Throby	1011	42 7 6½	57 16 1½	91 5 4	113 17 0½	686 10 11½

£16054 average on uniting.

Add expense of Establishment not included in the two first quarters.

Disbursed from 1st May, to 6th April, 1896. £7198 13 9½

I have taken the twenty-five days by which the year is deficient, at the same proportionate saving in the expenditure ; which will cause a diminution of charge for maintaining the poor to the extent of nearly 52 per cent ! From the foregoing statement it appears that the town and parish of Faversham, will pay in poor's rates for the last year about 60 per cent. less than the average of the three preceding years ; antecedent to this the accumulation of pauperism was *very considerable* here, in great measure owing to the ungenial seasons, and severe losses the oyster fishers, or dredgers, sustained.—The munificence of the late Lord Sondes to these persons was of the most *benevolent*, and *exemplary* description ; and these honest, hardy, industrious persons may with too much probability, say

“ He was a man, take him for all in all,
We shall not look upon his like again.”

The officers appointed by this board, with the salaries paid them, appear as under :—

Auditor.....	£30 per Annum.
Chaplain	£50 ”
Clerk	£100 ”
Governor	£80 ”
Porter, (a pauper)	1s. 6d. per Week and board.
Relieving Officer.....	£80 per Annum.
2nd District ditto.....	£80 ”
3rd District ditto.....	£80 ”
Schoolmaster, (who lives in the house)	£20 ”

This board holds its weekly meetings on Fridays. The area from Selling to Linsted is about nine miles ; but across the Union from Luddenham to Stalisfield it appears to be ten.

The three relieving officers are now collectors of the rates in their several districts, *without increasing their stipends* ; by this arrangement, the office of overseer becomes almost a sinecure ; very different from that of guardian of the parish ; as this officer, if he attend his duty with punctuality, spends one-sixth of his disposable time gratuitously, in the service of the public.

At the formation of this Union, some exceedingly

coarse and disgraceful language was used by a portion of the neighbouring peasantry, which proceeded to personal assault of a virulent description; but, owing to the determined courage, and judicious management of certain members of the board, no life was lost, and the ringleaders of the riot were taken into custody, tried for the assault at the quarter session, and convicted of the offence, and two or three of them, if I mistake not, were transported for this breach of the peace.

To a portion of my interrogatories, Mr. Neame replied, "I believe the inmates of the house are generally well satisfied with their treatment and mode of living; at least, as much so as paupers usually are in work-houses. The laborers are generally in employment; I may say more so than has been the case for *many years past*;—the new law has evidently wrought a great moral improvement in their condition; and, although some cases of hardship and distress are to be met with, I am fully justified in saying they are far less than those daily witnessed under the old law."

The Milton Union is situate in the most western district of East Kent: it includes the towns of Sittingborne and Milton, in the eighteen parishes from which it is comprised; it sends twenty guardians to its board, and conducts its business in a new building erected for the purpose at Milton;—The chairman is Sir J. M. Tylden, K. C. B., and the vice chairman, R. Lake, Esq.

This Union contains a population of 10,689 persons, and was formed on the 25th of March, 1835. Having addressed the chairman, who happened to be absent on an excursion to Ireland, my letter was most obligingly answered by Mr. Robert Hinde, jun., the respectable solicitor, (who acts as clerk) handing me the required statement, together with other information; he likewise forwarded me the exact particulars of the dietary of the Milton house, which I shall presently show, and which I may venture to state, is that now adopted through East

Kent, as the proper quantities agreed on at the meeting of the Chairmen, Vice Chairmen, and Assistant Commissioner, at Canterbury, on the 13th of July, 1835. The board of guardians appears to me to have conducted this Union on a liberal scale ; yet the savings in the rates of the respective parishes will be found from the following particulars, to vie with most others I have taken cognizance of :—

PARISHES.	Averages of each Parish.	EXPENDITURE of each Parish, for the Quarter ending				TOTALS.
		24th June, 1835.	29th Sept. 1835.	25th Dec. 1835.	26th March, 1836.	
Bapchild.....	£316 ..	38 9 2 ..	49 14 11 ..	46 8 3½ ..	43 19 9½ ..	178 12 1½
Bobbing	497 ..	49 18 4 ..	41 17 4½ ..	46 19 4 ..	61 0 8½ ..	187 15 9
Borden	724 ..	74 3 9 ..	73 2 1 ..	76 13 2½ ..	76 5 1 ..	299 4 1½
Bredgar.....	478 ..	91 6 2 ..	74 11 4½ ..	84 2 10¼ ..	98 9 7¾ ..	348 10 0½
Halstow (lower).	273 ..	28 17 7 ..	25 16 2 ..	28 6 0¾ ..	30 12 7 ..	113 12 4¾
Hartlip	662 ..	48 1 10 ..	63 11 5 ..	84 1 2½ ..	82 18 10 ..	278 13 3¼
Iwade	161 ..	13 7 1 ..	18 13 3½ ..	19 5 7½ ..	19 18 3 ..	71 4 3
Kingsdown ...	199 ..	15 13 0½ ..	18 18 1 ..	18 8 1 ..	17 2 3 ..	70 1 5½
Milestead	169 ..	18 12 1 ..	21 1 9 ..	18 10 6 ..	19 16 6 ..	78 0 9
Milton	2019 ..	201 7 3 ..	207 6 3 ..	220 14 1½ ..	248 10 2½ ..	877 17 9½
Murston.....	231 ..	25 6 4 ..	28 19 7½ ..	31 7 2 ..	38 19 5 ..	124 12 6½
Newington	782 ..	81 1 11 ..	93 8 2 ..	112 19 11 ..	102 18 6½ ..	397 8 6½
Rainham	1482 ..	182 11 11 ..	179 8 8 ..	207 6 1½ ..	208 14 10 ..	777 16 6½
Rodmersham ..	315 ..	45 11 9 ..	39 9 0 ..	48 10 2½ ..	48 3 8½ ..	181 5 7¾
Sittingborne	1448 ..	177 5 7 ..	201 9 6 ..	231 11 0½ ..	220 8 1 ..	830 14 2½
Tong	601 ..	55 12 0 ..	64 7 2 ..	56 3 2 ..	72 9 4 ..	248 11 8
Tunstall.....	258 ..	22 1 10 ..	18 11 1½ ..	26 7 1 ..	26 4 11½ ..	92 5 0
Upchurch	582 ..	53 2 1 ..	57 9 11 ..	71 4 7 ..	77 15 7½ ..	259 12 2½
	11197	1229 9 8½	1277 1 10	1427 18 5½	1462 8 3½	5415 18 3¼

The averages at the commencement of the Union, amounting to £11,197, and the expenditure, at the end of the year, only to £5,415 : 18 : 3½, evinces a saving in the disbursements of the last year of £5,781 : 1 : 8½; rather more than fifty-two and a half per cent.

On receiving the names of the paupers, in March, 1835, from the respective parishes, the relieving officers returned sixteen hundred on their lists; since then, it appears, the numbers have continually diminished; and, by the favor of Sir J. M. Tylden, since returned, I am enabled to lay before the reader the number of inmates of the house, as well as those now on the books as outdoor poor; the latter, only amounting to 885, whilst the former are thus described: making a total of 990.

Men	{ able bodied	0
	{ old and infirm	21
	{ ill and lame	9
Youths, from 8 to 14 years .		19
Boys from 2 to 8 years . . .		13
Women	{ able bodied	13
	{ old and infirm	3
	{ ill and lame	4
Girls, from 8 to 15 years . .		6
from 2 to 8 years		13
Infants		4

Thus, it appears that the spirit of independence is reviving in this district; and so long as the industrious and sober find employ, at fair wages, and the indolent, drunken, and profligate are discouraged by a *judicious* coercion, I greatly hope and believe, this feeling will advance in growth.

The officers who receive salaries are,

The Auditor, Mr. Bathurst	per annum	£30
Chaplain, Rev. — Greaves		50
Clerk, Mr. R. Hinde, jun.		100
Master and Matron, Mr. and Mrs. Alderton		80
Medical officer, 1st district)	Contracts just expired {	150
Do, 2nd do.)		75
Two relieving officers,	each	100
(Mr. Tarpe only, one being reduced)		
One porter, with firing, candles, and apartments		£36 8s.
Schoolmaster		15
Schoolmistress		5
Treasurer, Robert Hinde, Esq.		15

The area of the Union is from Milstead to Rainham, ten miles, whilst the width, from Tunstall to Iwade, does not exceed six miles.

The dietary, as I before stated, was fixed on by the chief officers of East Kent, for general adoption, and is as under :—

GENERAL DIETARY.

		Breakfast		Dinner †				Supper	
		Bread	Cheese or Butter	Meat Pudding, with Vegetables	Suet Pudding, with Vegetables.	Bread	Cheese	Bread	Butter or Cheese
		oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
Sunday ...	Men ..	6	1	16	..	..	..	6	1
	Women	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	10	..	..	..	5	$\frac{1}{2}$
Monday....	Men ..	6	1	..	..	7	1	6	1
	Women	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	..	7	1	5	$\frac{1}{2}$
Tuesday ...	Men ..	6	1	..	16	..	..	6	1
	Women	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	10	..	..	5	$\frac{1}{2}$
Wednesday.	Men ..	6	1	..	..	7	1	6	1
	Women	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	..	7	1	5	$\frac{1}{2}$
Thursday ..	Men ..	6	1	..	..	7	1	6	1
	Women	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	..	7	1	5	$\frac{1}{2}$
Friday	Men ..	6	1	..	16	..	..	6	1
	Women	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	10	..	..	5	$\frac{1}{2}$
Saturday ...	Men ..	6	1	..	..	7	1	6	1
	Women	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	..	7	1	5	$\frac{1}{2}$

OLD PEOPLE, being 60 years of age, and upwards—The weekly addition of one ounce of tea and milk, also, an additional meat-pudding dinner on Thursday in each week, in lieu of bread and cheese, for those whose age and infirmities it may be deemed proper and requisite.

CHILDREN—Bread and milk for their breakfast and supper, or gruel, when milk cannot be obtained; also, such proportions of the dinner diet as may be requisite for their respective ages.

SICK—Whatever is ordered for them by the medical officer.

I perceive I have omitted to observe on the appointment of a collector of rates, which I am informed is to be adopted; that he is to commence

his employ from the 24th June instant; he is to receive three-pence in the pound on all poor-rates paid him, and ten per cent. upon the return of monies lent, or loans to paupers, which he may, through his good management, be enabled to receive. It is likewise intended to discontinue the services of one relieving officer, who, it is presumed, will receive the appointment of collector; this is thought necessary, from the very considerable diminution of paupers, as well as that they are more concentrated, from the occupation of the Union house.

At the concluding part of his letter, Mr. Hinde states, "in my opinion, the 'Poor Law Amendment Act', in its operation, has decidedly *improved* the habits of the poor, exclusive of its pecuniary saving."

The distress of the poorer classes of Milton has, like that of its neighbour of Faversham, been greatly enhanced of late years, by a diminution of employ to the dredgers; this body having been long and expensively involved in law, which has greatly and seriously operated against them, by prohibiting, for a period, their employ, in sending oysters, the *staple commodity* of their situation, to the London market; this point (the matter of ownership) it is devoutly to be wished, may be so settled, that no further annoyances be thrown in the way of these industrious and deserving men. Since writing the foregoing, I have been favored by Sir J. M. Tylden's letter; wherein he observes, "Under the head of general remarks, I would say, that the result of one year's trial has proved that the new poor law has been of the greatest possible benefit, not only to the rate-payers, but to society generally, and particularly the laboring classes; for it has completely solved the difficulty attached to a redundant population; we have not now, and have not had for a long time, a man able to work, unemployed;—the laborers are more orderly and moral in their conduct; more civil in

their behaviour ; much more industrious ;—more pains-taking and economical ; in proof of which, beer shops are shutting up in all directions, and ale-house keepers with brewers are complaining ; but the maltsters do not ;—and though one does, now and then, meet with a maudlin, good sort of man, as he is called, who has no pity for any one till he becomes a pauper, or a criminal, yet even this class cannot now refuse to acknowledge the truth of these facts, and can only say ‘aye but will it last?’ To this I reply, ‘not last as it is, but constantly improve ;’ and I am confident that in ten years time, pauperism will have become merely nominal.”

“As to wages, these too have been rising ; and 12s. a week is now, I believe, the general average of daily pay ; but men are here employed by the piece, or the great, as it is called.

“With respect to the dredgermen of Milton, I believe they are now all employed ;—I hope soon to get a memorial out in their favor, to aid them in an endeavour to recover their ancient rights by going into Chancery ; but at present I can say nothing certain on this head of your letter.”

The foregoing observations, so unequivocally and ingenuously proffered by the gallant knight, speak volumes ; here not only pecuniary, but moral good is appreciated ; and it seems both have been, to a valuable extent, achieved. Thus are we encouraged not only to hope, but to feel assured, that the “Poor Law Amendment Act” is producing those results which its supporters anticipated.

The board meets every Thursday.

The Blean Union comprises sixteen parishes ; six of which are a part of the city of Canterbury ; it extends, with little exception, over an area of good land ; contains a population of 10,639 persons, with an average poor’s-rate, taken in April, 1835, for the three preceding years, of £10,519 : 11 : 7 ; 19 guardians are elected from its board, of which William Hyder, Esq. and Thomas Rammel, Esq.

have been chosen as the chairman and vice chairman; this board meets at their Union house, on the Thursday of each week, and I have reason to believe, from the attention these gentlemen pay to their onerous duties; the method, arrangement, and impartiality now adopted, they cannot but succeed in reducing the rates, improving the moral condition of the peasantry, and diffusing a larger portion of happiness among them. This principle will, I trust and believe, re-create that spirit of independence, which the peasantry of England were wont to possess and enjoy; I say *were* wont to possess, as we have fearfully waned in this particular, both in extent and degree; and therefore is it that any measure which increases independence is worthy of countenance and support, inasmuch as it advances general happiness; circulating that blessing amongst tens of thousands, who probably, under apathetic servility, would never have appreciated its enjoyment.

This Union has the following officers, with the annexed salaries attached to their respective situations;—the order of the Union, and the concentrated position of a large portion of the inhabitants induce the board to reduce the number of their relieving officers, or employ them as collectors.

Auditor, Mr. S. Graves.....	per annum	£20
Chaplain, Rev. D. Brammall.....		50
Clerk, Mr. W. Smithson.....		80
Governor and matron, Mr. T. Kettle and wife		80
Porter and his wife, (who is schoolmistress)		36 8s.
First relieving officer, William Nicholls		80
Second do. Henry Goldfinch		80
Schoolmaster, (with board,) J. Jarvies.....		15 12s.

The board meets on every Thursday, at the Union house, on Blean Common.

The average expense of the maintenance of the in-door poor, as stated on the 22nd of June last, for the preceding month, was two shillings and five pence each individual, weekly; and the area from north to south I find to be eight miles, whilst from east to west there is scarcely any difference in the extent.

The number of out-door paupers returned on the 3rd of July, 1835, amounted to nine hundred and seventy-two, as appeared by the books of the sixteen parishes; but I find the present number amounts to only seven hundred and seventy-five; those in the house are shown by the statement below:—

Men ..	{ able bodied	0
	{ old and infirm	17
	{ ill and lame	3
Youths, from 8 to 15 years.		12
Boys, from 2 to 8 years..		9
Women	{ able bodied	5
	{ old and infirm....	10
	{ ill and lame.....	2
Girls, from 8 to 15 years...		6
from 2 to 8 years....		7
Infants.....		3
Total.....		74

A decrease of 197 has taken place in this Union; and it is considered more than probable, that the out-door paupers will continue to lessen their numbers.

Mr. Hyder, who obligingly gave me some particulars, of which I stood in need, states, "The house is built to accommodate 478 persons, but it has never received 200: at present there are only about eighty in-door paupers from the sixteen parishes."

"I am of opinion the system will work great good to the country; and that the poor laborer will feel disposed to look out for employment, rather than look to his parish for support;—in my neighbourhood we have no people out of employ; and, in fact, we could employ more able-bodied men, if they were to be met with. In some instances, the bill has done wonders, by its promotion of industry; having induced persons who have been living on parish aid for twenty or thirty years, to subsist now by their own labor." With the exception of those parishes taken from the city of Canterbury, there is no large town within this Union.—Whit-

stable, Herne, and Chislet contain the largest populations, and each sends two guardians to the Board.

The expenditure of this Union, (see particulars of the several parishes below,) amounts to the sum of £5405 : 3 : 9 $\frac{1}{4}$, which, compared with the average rate before stated, of £10,519 : 11 : 7, leaves a balance of £5,114 : 7 : 10 $\frac{3}{4}$, which may be stated at 48 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, saved by the present mode.

A large and substantial house has been built on Blean Common, on a part of five acres of land given by his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is considered the most capacious of any in East Kent; but, notwithstanding this, the in-door poor were kept in the former house till the 25th of March last, from the fear the new house was not sufficiently dry; this may account, in some measure, for the small comparative reduction of paupers; which will now be speedily augmented.

EXPENDITURES for the Quarters ending

PARISHES	AVERAGES			Sept. 30, 1836			Dec. 25, 1836			March, 1836			June 22, 1836		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Herne	2722	9	9	197	7	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	236	19	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	484	9	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	271	13	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Swalecliffe ..	325	17	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	27	15	0	31	13	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	52	6	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	33	18	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Whitstable ..	1337	5	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	141	11	1	163	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	254	5	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	200	6	1
Seasalter	574	2	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	44	5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	46	1	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	87	15	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	53	14	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Blean	256	10	1	27	4	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	29	1	8	41	18	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	35	7	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
St. Dunstan's	670	9	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	57	17	9	71	17	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	118	1	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	86	7	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Reculver	300	3	9	26	1	2	27	11	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	17	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	56	18	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chislett	1755	2	2	168	4	7	199	4	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	320	7	7	179	19	10
Hoath	230	5	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	35	0	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	29	10	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	51	10	9	36	17	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Westbere ..	296	2	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	28	17	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	35	4	8	53	19	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	40	4	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sturry	988	7	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	101	6	9	117	16	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	181	9	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	116	16	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Archbishop's Palace....	139	10	7	18	14	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	19	17	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	31	5	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	25	19	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Christchurch	203	16	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	24	13	2	26	14	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	37	4	7	25	6	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
St. Stephen's	356	1	6	65	4	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	68	9	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	7	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	60	15	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Staplegate ..	152	14	11	14	3	7	14	7	9	29	15	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	12	4	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
St. Gregory..	210	11	3	35	15	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	35	9	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	59	0	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	46	17	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
	10519	11	7	1021	2	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1152	19	11	84	1283	5	3 $\frac{1}{2}$		

Not having received all the data required, I cannot proceed in the order I had marked out, and therefore intend to insert the principal bearings of

the Isle of Thanet Union. It consists of nine parishes, which contain a population of 7,474 persons; these have an average expenditure of £6,299; the Rev. J.M. Cramp is the chairman, and G. Bedford, Esq. the vice chairman. This Union has a board of thirteen guardians; St. Laurence, Minster, St. Nicholas, and St. Peter's sending two each; it extends over an area of moderate extent, but of *very* good land, and lies in the most easternly position of the county. Since its formation, this Union has greatly augmented its number of inhabitants, by the addition of the towns of Margate and Ramsgate; these have a population of 19,344 persons; producing a total of 26,818; but as the junction has taken place but for so short a period, I can offer no satisfactory statement as to these townships.

The disbursements of the nine parishes amount to £3,434 for forty-two weeks;—thus a saving of £2,865 is effected, which is nearly equal to 55 per cent. per annum.

The public officers at present appointed, (as under) have the salaries attached to their respective names.

Auditor, Mr. L. Daniel	£20
Clerk, Mr. William Freeman	80
Chaplain, the Rev. William Valance	40
Collector, Mr. Brown at 4d. in the pound,	
Ditto, Mr. France, ditto	
Ditto, Mr. Powell, ditto	
Governor and Matron, Mr. and Mrs. Cowtan	80
Porter, Mr. Cowtan, jun.	12
Relieving officer, Mr. E. Wootton	80
Ditto, Mr. William Wildash	80
Surgeon, Mr. R. Freeman	100
Ditto, Mr. O. C. Walter	60
Schoolmaster, not appointed	
Schoolmistress, ditto	

The area of the Union is but small; from Birchington to Minster being only about five miles, and from east to west, viz. from St. Peter's to St. Nicholas', rather more than seven!

The number of paupers in this Union, the sub-joined particulars show to have greatly diminished; as, on the 15th July, 1835, I find there were 364 out-door poor receiving relief, and 200 within the

then Union-house; whereas, at the last return, on the 22nd June, 1836, only 166 out poor, and 128 in-door poor were visible on the pay list of the Union; thus a decrease of 270 paupers is evinced; by which, it is to be presumed, so many persons have become freed from listless dependence, to embrace good citizenship and liberty.

The amount of the house expenditure, averages, for the last month, ending 22nd June, at two shillings and five pence for each person weekly.

The general feeling of the country population, on the first formation of this Union, was decidedly unfavourable, notwithstanding pains were taken to convince the people that it would be eventually found satisfactory to the sober and industrious. Since this, the necessaries provided for them having been reported, by those in the house, to be good, and their treatment liberal; the great care taken of the sick, and the unlimited permission given the medical attendants, to order what they deem most proper, have entirely changed this feeling.

Particulars of the several Parishes, as appears by their Quarterly Payments.

	Three Years Averages.	From 6th to 20th June.			From 25 June to 11th Oct.			From 11 Oct. to 25 Dec.			From 25 Dec. to 25 March.			TOTALS.		
	£	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
St. Laurence	1430	37	2	2½	357	7	7½	178	11	6	371	6	5½	944	7	9½
Minster	947	18	12	8	135	5	8½	59	12	9	241	1	9	454	12	10½
Monkton....	630	12	14	1	82	15	7	54	7	0	170	13	7½	320	10	3½
St. Nicholas	1097	15	6	9	93	0	1½	60	6	9½	256	4	3½	424	17	10½
Stonar	14	0	19	7	7	14	10½	5	5	6	11	7	5	25	7	4½
Birchington ..	668	21	18	3½	172	0	3	51	4	3	171	18	8½	417	1	5½
St. Peter's ..	1145	15	1	10	199	5	6	130	15	6½	307	18	9½	653	1	8
Sarre	91	0	18	11	13	17	4½	5	19	7½	17	19	7½	38	15	6½
Acol.....	277	9	16	6	54	1	3	20	16	4½	70	16	9½	155	10	11
	6299	Average of three years.						Disbursed £ 3434 5 10½								

Thus a saving of forty-six and a quarter per cent. per annum is perceptible, even if the ten weeks short of the year, here shown, were to do no more than the average of the preceding forty-two, which had the winter months to contend with.

Mr. Cramp, in his attention to my request for

information, at the termination of his letter, observes, "The inmates of our central house are generally very contented and comfortable;—we do not hear of much that passes out of doors; but we have good grounds for believing that the effects of the new system are daily developing themselves, and will soon appear in an improved character. If you wish any more, or different information, write to me again;—I shall cheerfully reply."

TABLE A.
STATEMENT of the Inmates of the East Kent Workhouses, the Week ending 6th August.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	Population..		Ashford East.	Ashford West.	Blean	Bridge	Eastry	Folham	Faversham	Milton	River	Romney Marsh	Sheppey	Thanet, Isle of	TOTAL
	Men—Able-bodied	10701													
Men—Able-bodied	14	13	14	16	16	74	20	31	16	24	4	17	17	87	11
Old and Infirm	5	2	2	6	6	23	10	4	8	9	10	11	11	25	194
Ill and Lame	15	23	9	13	13	24	10	14	14	11	7	17	18	37	212
Youths from 5 to 15 yrs..	0	0	0	0	0	17	10	14	13	13	10	6	10	11	123
Boys from 5 to 8 yrs..	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	14	4	4	10	9	10	11	97
Women—Able-bodied..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Old and Infirm	3	13	4	9	5	0	12	7	7	4	2	10	18	25	79
Ill and Lame	2	9	4	7	7	20	7	14	10	4	4	10	19	25	159
Girls from 5 to 15 years..	4	4	4	7	7	0	0	11	10	4	4	0	0	11	110
Infants	1	3	3	9	9	13	3	0	3	3	4	7	5	9	65
Total.....	52	80	88	91	97	270	107	118	103	106	65	121	207	1514	

TABLE B.
SALARIES OF OFFICERS IN THE EAST KENT UNIONS.

Names of Unions	Population 1831	Master of Workhouse	Matron	Schoolmaster	School-mistress	Porter	Chaplain	Clerk	Medical Officers	Relieving Officers	Auditor	Treasurer	Laundress	Total
Ashford East	10751	£80 F.C.P		£ s.	£18	£23 8 FCP	£40	£60	£230 10s. Mid	120	£20			£591 8
Ashford West	10758	80 F.C.P					40	60	240 10s. Mid	150	20			590 0
Blean ..	11139	80 F.C		15 12 P	36		50	80	120	160	20			561 12
Bridge..	10439	100 F.C			32 FC		50	60	5s WH 14s. Mid 10s. OP	125	20			437 0
Eastry..	23870	100 F.C.P	35 FCP	25 FCP	8 FCP	20 FCP	40	120	268 15s. Mid	160	40		8 FCP	784 0
Elham..	14137	80 F.C.P			30 C	P		100	278 15s. Mid	140	15 10			663 0
Faver-sham ..	14923	80 FC		20 FCP		3 18 FC	50	100	250	240	30			773 18
Milton..	10689	80 F.C.P		15	10	36 8 FC	50	100	138	140	30 15			614 8
River	10754	90 F.C			60 FC	89 FC	40	80	6s WH 15s. Mid 4s. 6d. OP	80	25			674 0
Romney Marsh	4859	74 12 FCP				8 12		70	180	100	20			453 4
Sheppey	9873	80 F.C.P				9 2 FC	30	70	170	140	20			519 2
Thanet.	26090	80 F.C.P				12 FCP	40	80	314	160	20			706 0
Total	158282			1461 12			430	980	2318	1715	280 25	8		7217 12

P. S.—F stands for fire, C for candle, P for provisions, O P for out-paupers, WH for workhouse, Mid, with a number affixed, for the sum charged for each midwifery case.

In the Bridge and River Unions, the medical officers are not paid a specified yearly sum for attending out-paupers, but so much per case; in the former Union 10s. per case; in the latter 4s. 6d. In the Elham Union 10s. only are paid for midwifery cases in Hythe and Folkestone; in the rest of the Union 15s.

Where no sum for midwifery appears, the contract is to be understood as including cases of this description, without additional charge.

In the Bridge and River Unions the totals do not show accurately the amount of salaries given, inasmuch as the medical officers not being paid specific yearly sums, but so much per case, it is impossible to note what salaries they will receive at the end of the year.

The East Ashford Union, at its formation, comprised 22 parishes only; the united population of which amounted to 9541, and the average payment for the maintenance of the poor, was taken at the sum of £8951.

In this Union we find a diversity of soils. The South Western extremity, skirting a part of Romney Marsh, consists of a heavy, tenacious clay; after which, as the hill commences, a limestone rock is found, with a tolerable depth, or thickness, of alluvium on its surface; which is much more friable and productive than that of the adjacent Weald. At the North Eastern point the chalk hills obtain for a considerable distance, and here a *very inferior* tract of country is observable. The area of this Union appears to be (extending from north to south) about 16 miles in length, measuring from Chilham to Hurst; whilst its breadth, viz., from Hastingleigh to Kennington, is only about seven miles.

This district of country is much diversified by hill and dale, pasture, arable land, and wood. There are no manufactories within it: and the whole Union does not contain a single township or parish with 2500 inhabitants. Since the first arrangement it has had the addition of three parishes, which were considered by the guardians to be governed by "Gilbert's Act;" and although they successfully resisted the commissioners for a considerable period, in their attempt to break through the bulwarks by which these guardians conceived themselves to be defended, it has since been proved they held no legal title of incorporation under that act; and the result has been a surrender of their claim to the old law, and a junction with the East Ashford. This addition augmented the population to 10,751, and the rating to £10,259. Previously to these parishes being united, a chairman and vice-chairman had been elected; the former Jas. Beckford Wildman, of Chilham Castle, Esq., and the latter Edward Hughes, of Smeeth

Hill House ; these, with 21 guardians, formed the board, which *very generally* receives the efficient services of Edw. Knight, Esq., of Godmersham Park ; also the casual aid of the Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. Knatchbull, Bart., of Mersham Hatch ; and H. W. Carter, Esq., M.D., of Kennington-place, as ex-officio guardians.

The number of paupers I find on the books, as reported by the relieving officers in June, 1835, amounted to 1168 ; and on the 5th of July, 1836, the whole number on the books was no more than 701 ; of these 54 were inmates of the house ; showing a diminution of rather more than $38\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the pauperism of this Union the first year ! I have observed that the average payments for the maintenance of the poor under the former law amounted to £8951, and the subjoined particulars exhibit the expenditure for twelve months of only £5220 7s. $4\frac{1}{2}$ d., showing a saving of £3730 12s. $7\frac{1}{2}$ d.—a sum adequate to £42 12s. 5d. per cent.,—an amount quite sufficient to satisfy me for the labours of one year. During this procedure, in the parish in which I am writing, we have rarely had a man out of employ ; this, coupled with the pecuniary saving, will I think justly authorise us to believe a small portion (at least) of moral good is achieved. We must be all aware that at this season of the year employ in the rural districts generally abounds ; but as a drawback to this, we may fairly observe, that the vast importation of Irish labourers, greatly reduces that portion of work, which, from original custom, reason, and birth-right belongs to our own peasantry !

This board holds its meeting every Wednesday, the members being pretty generally attentive, and punctual as to time ; and although the East Ashford has obtained the reputation of being liberal overmuch, from certain members of other Boards, I think I may venture to observe that very few, if any privileges have been permitted in this Union, which the *spirit* of the " Poor Law Amendment Act " does not sanction. The guardians have persevered with a just steadiness of purpose to propel the law, though I admit, with as much leniency as *its authority* vested in them ; and I know of no individual among them who has ever swerved from putting its *letter* into execution, whenever a case demanded it.—The motto of the Board may be justly stated thus : " We will do our *duty* ! satisfactorily to all, if practicable ; but at all events we'll do it ;"—this being performed, will not the reflective observer exclaim,

" Let the galled jade wince ;

Their withers are unwrung !"

I am quite sure this Board would not profess to be immaculate, nor desire to be so considered, knowing it to be humanity to err ; but I likewise know its desire to act upon the basis of the law ; and if there be cases of hardship, then to intermingle mercy with legal justice. Such are my views upon this point, and I feel confident I shall meet in this expression of sentiment, with the concurrence, and probably the satisfaction of the East Ashford Board ; being fully persuaded its intention is to continue to act upon the principles which the Board has been from the commencement of its sittings adopting ; pursuing steadily a path of duty, too deeply implanted to be shaken by a very tender sensibility ; or to be agitated by the hasty admonitions of the unwary, and general piquancy of the more dictatorial.

The East Ashford has reduced the number of its relieving officers to two ; and those who receive salaries for duties performed, are the following :—

Auditor.....	Robert Furley, Esq.....	Ashford
Chaplain	Rev. R. Billing.....	Wye
Clerk	Mr. F. Underdown	Ashford
Governor	Lt. Goldie, R. N. (a)	Union-house
Matron.....	Mrs. Goldie	Ditto
Medical officer.....	John Beet, Esq.	Ashford
Do.	J. Wildash, Esq.	Wye
Do.	J. Lacey.....	Aldington
Porter	D. Videan.....	Union House
Relieving officer ..	Mr. R. Bridger.....	Mersham
Do. ....	..Mr. George Theobalds ...	Godmersham
Schoolmistress ...	M. E. Collins	Union House
Treasurers	Messrs. Jemmett & Pomfret,	Ashford

No schoolmaster is appointed at present; and the board considers it unnecessary to employ a collector of rates.—For amount of salaries, see Table B, p. 54.

The West Ashford Union was formed on the 3rd of June, 1835; it contained ten parishes, which embraced a population of 7634; and its average expenditure was fixed, after deducting some items, at £7954. This district of country is situate partly in the weald of Kent, where pauperism had, at one period, arrived at a fearful point; though prior to the existence of the present law, the rate-payers were bestirring themselves, and the effort produced a very considerable abatement of the impost.—In one of these parishes, I believe, from forty to fifty per cent. reduction in the expenditure was caused by this vigilant, close, and necessary attention to the parochial duties;—duties which, antecedently, had been executed in a rather careless and improvident manner. That portion of the Union which lies in the weald, is of a poor wet clay, very tenacious, and heavy in its tillage; hops have of late years been cultivated with success; though it is, in my opinion, generally better adapted to the growth of wood than that of corn. The other portion of the Union produces limestone, which, having alluvium on its surface, is far more productive, and is certainly more generally healthy; probably from the greater purity of the water, the salubrity of the air, and the locality

being more elevated, and less confined by wood than the Weald.

The area of this Union from north to south is nearly ten miles, viz: from Kingsnorth to Charing; and from east to west, (as from Great Chart to Smarden) appears to be about eight miles.

At its formation, there were a chairman, vice chairman, and eight guardians elected; the two former are John Wightwick and Edward Strouts, Esqs., but since its commencement, the town and parish of Ashford, and that of Little Chart, have been added to the Union; which have increased the population to 10,758; and the average payments to £9,497.

But as these two parishes have joined the co-partnership but a few months, I think it best to omit any particulars of their procedure at present, saving the mention of three guardians having been appointed by the electors, augmenting the Board to thirteen; exclusive of the pretty general attendance of two ex-officio guardians, and periodically a greater number. In addition to these, the following officers have been elected; the amount of their respective salaries may be seen in Table B, p. 54.

Auditor.....	Weller Nowood, Esq.	Charing
Chaplain.....	Rev. A. Ross	Westwell
Clerk	Mr. A. Briggs	Ashford
Medical officers ..	Messrs Wilkes & Terry, & Mr. G. Wilkes	
Master & Mistress, Mr. and Mrs. Mursell	Union-house	
Relieving officer ..	Mr. Thomas Cheeseman ..	Charing
Ditto	Mr. Thomas Hall	Ashford

The first report of paupers, stated the number at 850 in the ten parishes, which by reference to Table C, p. 74, will be found, at the last return, to be considerably diminished.

However praiseworthy may have been the vigilance and exertion in the officers of the parishes in that section of the Union known by the appellation of the Weald, to relieve the rate-payers from that oppressive burthen which almost bowed them to the ground, during the late most trying

and distressing era, it will be found, I think, that the more economical and judicious mode, now adopted, will effect a greater pecuniary service for them; and I ardently hope, without trenching on the real and substantial happiness of the people subject to the new law, as administered by the commissioners and guardians of the poor! I am, moreover, led to believe that proofs are not wanting here, as elsewhere, sufficient to convince the impartial mind, that the industrious classes are more exertive, more vigilant in seeking employ;—less frequently in beer-houses, or dissolutely wasting their time and money; whereby their families suffered; and they, becoming the prey of poverty and want, were sometimes tempted to join in immoralities, and perhaps at others, to fall into *vices* which totally destroyed their habits of industry; and unfitted them for the sphere they formerly filled with so much credit to themselves as fathers, husbands, and citizens.

This Board meets at the Union-house in the parish of Hothfield, every Monday.

Annexed is the statement of the receipts and disbursements of the three months which I have been enabled to obtain, ending the 20th June, 1836.

PARISHES	EXPENDITURES for the Quarters ending			
	Average Payments	January, 1836	25th March	20th June
Bethersden.....	£1068 ..	206 4 4½ ..	207 13 4½ ..	206 3 1½
Charing	950 ..	108 5 7½ ..	137 14 2½ ..	133 12 1½
Chart (Great)	491 ..	92 11 11½ ..	96 14 2½ ..	75 1 0½
Egerton	1360 ..	104 11 3 ..	136 0 9½ ..	172 16 7½
Hothfield	389 ..	42 6 4½ ..	65 6 7 ..	39 19 1½
Ringsworth	311 ..	62 9 11½ ..	67 5 5½ ..	36 11 7½
Pluckley.....	806 ..	109 12 4½ ..	112 13 11½ ..	134 19 9½
Shadoxhurst	249 ..	33 5 3½ ..	34 14 0½ ..	44 2 10½
Smarden	1059 ..	142 3 2 ..	161 15 4½ ..	151 14 0½
Westwell	1271 ..	159 1 11½ ..	176 13 6½ ..	170 11 2½
	£7954	1060 12 3½	1196 11 6½	1165 11 7

Thus it appears that the disbursements for the three quarters, amount only to £3422 : 15 : 5½d. to which, if we add the other quarter, at the same ratio of expenditure, this Union will have disbursed £3390 : 6 : 0½d. less than the average of the antecedent three years; thus, saving a sum equal to 42½ per cent. per annum on that amount.

The Eastry Union stretches over one of the most decidedly agricultural districts of any in the county, lying within that section of it, which is *justly* denominated *East Kent*, and perhaps there is scarcely any part of the kingdom better cultivated than this portion of Kent.

This Union has an area of about twelve miles in length, by ten in breadth, viz : from Ripple to Stourmouth ; and Nonnington to Walmer ; within which, it contains twenty-six parishes, with a population of 13,516. It is governed by a chairman, vice chairman, and twenty-five guardians ; one parish only (Ash, with a population of 2726) sending two. There are many evidences of the good management of this board, under the direction of H. P. Hannam, Esq. the chairman, and William Henderson, Esq. the vice chairman : among others, I notice the very large diminution of paupers evinced.

It appears from the information I have obtained through the gentlemanly attention of the chairman, that the guardians found, at their first meeting, a list containing the names of 3,840 persons who were receiving aid from the parish funds ; whereas, at this period, the 25th June, 1836, the aggregate number in the Union (as it was first arranged) does not exceed 1050, of which, 237 are inmates of the Union-house !—The schedule of contribution and expenditure of each parish from the commencement of the Union to the quarter ending June, 1836, evinces the tact of Mr. Edward Greey, the clerk. I insert a copy, which will be found to show a saving of expenditure to a large amount.

An increase of the population in this Union, to a large extent, was caused by the annexation of Deal and Sandwich, which swelled the aggregate number to 23,868. The particulars of the receipts and disbursements we will now insert :

STATEMENT, showing the Contributions and Expenditure for each Parish in the EASTRY UNION, for the Quarter ending 25th June, 1886.

[illegible]

Comparative Statement.

In Maintenance and Out Relief of Paupers.										Total of Particular Expenses								
In-Door.					Out-Door.													
										£	s	d.						
From 10th June, 1834										2727	7	10½	10065	7	4	13302	15	2½
To 25th June, 1835																		
From 10th June, 1835										1200	5	2½	4086	1	2½	5075	6	5
To 25th June, 1836																		
Diminution in 53 Weeks										1428	2	8	5979	6	1½	7417	8	9½

This STATEMENT has been made under the Direction of the Board of Guardians, this Seventh Day of July, 1836.

EDWARD GREY, Clerk.

The following officers have been appointed :—

Auditor.....Mr. F. Laslett
 ChaplainRev. F. H. Woollaston
 ClerkMr. Edward Greey
 GovernorMr. George Watts
 Matron.....Mrs.
 Medical OfficersFive gentlemen of the district
 Porters (two)
 Relieving Officer....Mr. H. Upton
 DittoMr. F. Simmonds
 Schoolmaster
 Schoolmistress

For the original twenty-six parishes an average sum of £14,093 was paid for the maintenance of the poor in each of the preceding three years; from this a diminution of £7278. 4s. 3d. appears in the expenditure of the last twelvemonth, under the operation of the new system. But not only in pecuniaries has this law been useful, it is so also in the spirit of economy, exertion, and thoughtfulness it induces, so laudable in the workmen, and satisfactory to the Board, as well as their employers in general; this is the best augury to my mind of future prosperity. Thus the inhabitants of the Eastry Union have the twofold satisfaction of beholding an improving morality, and a considerable saving of their finances—a saving rather exceeding 51½ per cent. per annum. This Board has reduced its Relieving Officers from three to two, they performing all the duties required of them; the reduced officer is elected to the Governorship of the House; a Collector is at present

considered unnecessary. I find the inhabitants of the house to have a happy and healthy appearance ; a proof that the dietary is salutary and sufficient. There is a considerable number of children in the house, who are the very representatives of health and happiness ; they are, I am pleased to find, allowed occasional recreation out of the house, under the superintendence of their instructors in the schools.

Thus thirty parishes, thirty-two Guardians, and 23,868 inhabitants, are numbered within the boundaries of this consolidation of interests !

It appears the men in this district are fully employed ; and as fair wages are given, satisfaction prevails to a far greater extent than for some time past.

After the very useful information, so handsomely forwarded me by Mr. Hannam, that gentleman concludes by stating : " The prejudice and ill-feeling which was so strongly manifested against the enactments of the New Poor Law has astonishingly subsided ; the working classes themselves, knowing it to be the law of the land, do not now protest against it, and that it has worked a general change for the better is universally acknowledged."

The Board meets every Thursday, at the Union House, at Eastry ; and the members are generally punctual in their attendance.

The River Union comprises 22 parishes, lies in an elevated situation, and possesses a variety of soils. Though the greater portion is, I believe, what the geologist would term common chalk, a stiff clay interspersed with stone, and a light alluvium prevails at places. The advantage of cultivating the poorer portions of these I apprehend to be questionable, at the price corn has borne for the last fifteen years ; but should it recover its proportion with the national and parochial taxation, a renewed stimulus would be created for exertion, and farmers would be again found, with animated

industry, cheerfully investing their remaining capital, looking forward with hopeful anticipation for that remuneration which industry and discretion usually command.

This Union may be very properly classed as an original East Kent district,—I say *original*, as formerly those parishes only received that appellation whose geographical situation demanded it. But of late years the distinguishing mark of the Kentish horse has more decidedly claimed a superiority among hop dealers, and hence the term and division of Eastern Kent has become more extended. Although this Union contains a considerable portion of ordinary soil, perhaps approximating to the poorer quality, yet the management of the cultivator does all that can possibly be expected to aid the natural sterility; and could a fair remuneration be anticipated from the outlay and industry of the farmer, it would, notwithstanding its ungenial soil, at certain points, approach to the enviable title travellers have attached to the more favoured districts of our native county. The system of fallowing, growing turnips, and folding the steep and hilly lands with sheep, has of late years given an artificial fertility to much of this district, a part of which is stiff adhesive land, and consequently heavy in its tillage and expensive in its general cultivation.

In this Union there are twenty-two parishes, embracing a population of 10,551 inhabitants; its formation took place on the 29th of April; and, from its peculiar good fortune in being provided with an *admirable house*, brought into so great notoriety by Sir Francis B. Head, the whole system was put into operation immediately after its formation, or as quickly as the machinery of the new law could be put in motion.

The area of the Union (as well as I can ascertain it) is about ten miles from north to south; I have taken the extremes; beginning at Ringwould, and going to the most southern parish, that of

Hougham; and from east to west, viz., from St. Margaret's at Cliffe, to Coldred, is nearly eight miles. It has in its direction a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and twenty other guardians; the two first-named gentlemen are the Rev. John Monins, and Robert Potter, Esq. The Board of the River Union was amongst the first, if not the earliest, to embrace, and enter into the spirit of the present law; notwithstanding which, from the observations I have made, this copartnership will receive a smaller share of pecuniary advantage than any other in East Kent. Its average rate, after the regulations were made at the commencement of the present system, amounted to £6,153 6s. 8d., with a population of 10,754 persons; and I find the expenditure to be for the first year, ending the 24th June, 1836, £5,586 12s. 2d. leaving a saving of only £566 14s. 6d., a sum scarcely equal to eleven per cent.

PARISHES.	Three years Average, ending 25th March, 1835	Expenditures for the Quarters ending			
		28 Sept. 1835.	28 Dec. 1835.	31 March, 1836	30 June, 1836
	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Alkham	396	52 17 11	65 18 5	89 0 10	137 0 7
Buckland	751	100 12 11	105 16 2	152 14 2	198 8 0
Cable	185	39 4 5	57 15 0	71 0 4	67 3 3
Charlton	292	74 3 4	79 5 2	98 14 3	105 11 11
Coldred	190	56 0 10	50 10 7	52 3 11	62 19 3
Denton	125	26 11 8	27 17 8	35 9 5	47 3 7
Ewell	231	59 4 2	62 12 2	78 9 0	78 11 2
Guston	142	15 9 10	16 16 4	20 3 2	37 8 6
Hougham	661	125 11 6	117 13 9	164 8 6	214 9 10
St. James	1079	140 1 11	138 18 6	200 10 6	292 16 11
East Langdon	132	25 1 7	27 17 11	45 4 0	47 1 4
West Langdon	10	0 3 2	0 5 4	0 14 10	1 19 8
Lydden	153	22 3 6	20 5 10	28 1 8	38 0 8
St. Margaret's	313	54 1 5	56 15 8	80 3 2	86 8 6
Oxney	12	0 4 9	0 6 1	1 0 9	3 5 1
Poulton	53	16 19 6	14 0 8	15 15 11	20 11 7
Ringwould	372	77 9 6	63 13 6	87 17 7	115 1 7
River	433	97 19 6	106 18 9	142 15 0	154 7 11
Sibertswood	198	37 17 0	39 15 8	50 14 9	75 0 1
West Cliffe	101	15 13 0	15 11 6	20 13 5	29 12 11
Whitfield	270	35 5 6	33 2 10	47 8 7	70 13 7
Wootton	51	6 0 3	8 8 4	12 15 10	15 15 8

It may be reasonably expected that the moral improvement of the inhabitants of this district has kept pace with the pecuniary saving. I trust this

is the case lest his Excellency Sir F. Head (were he ever to revisit us) should remind us (as he remarked on some of the inmates of the Coxheath Union), of the "mutinous, over-fed, and insubordinate" appearance of *our* peasantry. I believe there is no foundation for this character, and would fain desire to see those days return when in this district we might justly exclaim with the poet—

"Th' unbusied shepherd, stretch'd beneath the hawthorn,
His careless limbs thrown out in wanton ease,
With thoughtless gaze perusing the arch'd Heavens,
And idly whistling while his sheep feed round him,
Enjoys a sweeter shade than that of canopies,
Hemm'd in by cares, and shook by storms of treason."

This Union includes St. Thomas the Apostle in Dover, which has a large population, with but a moderate rating. This may possibly be one reason why the saving of expenditure is not larger; but the cause must be left for the decision of those who are more locally acquainted with the result than I am. I have some statements by me affording information of the state of pauperism in this district; but as the diminution appears not very considerable, I will merely state that there are at present about 970 on the books, 173 of whom are residents of the Union House.

The officers attached to this Union receiving salaries, are these—

Auditor.. .. .	Mr. James Worsfield.
Chaplain	The Rev. T. B. Lancaster.
Clerk	Mr. Wm. Cross.
Collector	Mr. W. C. Hills.
Master	Mr. John Bentley.
Mistress	Mrs. Bentley.
Medical Officer	Mr. George Rutley.
Porter	Mr. Thos. Hammond.
Relieving Officer.. .. .	Mr. H. Mutton.
Schoolmaster and Mistress.....	A married couple.

As reference may be had to the Table B., p. 54, for the amount of the permanent salaries, I have considered it unnecessary to state them here; but as some of the offices fluctuate in the amount of

payment, it is impossible to state them in an aggregate annual sum correctly.

Mr. Rutley receives for the present year's attendance on the in-door poor, £60; and for each patient out of it 4s 6d., with the addition of 15s. for every case of midwifery where his services are required for the pauper poor; and I find the collector is paid at *four pence* in the pound for all rates over *ten pounds*, and *eight pence* under that sum. One relieving officer has lately been reduced, who has since been appointed the Collector.

This Board, like most others, has expended a large sum on the furniture and fittings of the Union House; for a new one has been erected here notwithstanding the substantiality of the parish house of River. This Board holds its meetings on the Thursday of every week. An independent medical club has been instituted in this Union, the object of which is to enable the labouring classes to ensure to themselves medical and surgical attendance and medicine, during sickness, independently of parochial aid. Its rules and regulations are arranged on a liberal and graduated scale of payments; but it being only lately introduced to the notice of the public, nothing decisive can be stated as to its probable success.

The Elham Union was declared to be formed from and after the 3rd of June, 1835. It contained eighteen parishes; it ranks with little exception among the poorer soils of the county: the majority of this district has its sub-soil of chalk, with but a moderate portion of alluvium on its surface; its area from north to south is about 13 miles, taking Stelling as the most northern point and Folkstone as its opposite extreme; and the width from Stouting to Acrise, (Smith's Atlas informs me,) is eight miles. It contains a population which the table A exhibits of 10,758 persons; and had an average expenditure prior to the Poor Law Amendment Act of £10,242. The Chairman and Vice-

chairman are Richard Jones and Thomas Mount, Esqrs. who are assisted by sixteen parochial Guardians, with the additional aid of five ex-officio Guardians, viz. William Deedes, Esq. the Venerable Archdeacon Croft, the Rev. William Brockman, The Rev. K. E. Bayley, and Thomas Papillon, Esq., some of whom almost always attend the Meetings of the Board. My particulars of expenditure are for the most part derived from the kindness of the Chairman assisted by Mr. R. Thompson, the Clerk ; they commence from the 31st of July, 1835, and are made up to the 24th June following.

This Schedule exhibits a diminution of payments from the average of the three years' previous disbursements from the 18 parishes first united of £3791 19s. 1d., which will be found adequate to a saving of expenditure amounting to 51 per cent. per annum. The officers are :

Auditor	..... Mr. Bowes	..... Elham.
Clerk	..... Mr. R. Thompson	..... Lympne.
Collector	..... Mr. J. Fuller	..... Aldington.
Medical }	..... Mr. Piddock	..... Elham.
Officers }	..... Dr. George	..... Sandgate.
Master }	..... Mr. Chubb	..... Union-house.
Matron }	..... Mrs. Chubb	..... Union-house.
Relieving Officer..	Mr. M'Donald	..... Sandgate.

One being reduced on the appointment of a Collector, whose salary is 3d in the pound on the rates collected, and a more liberal allowance for the recovery of loans lent the poor ; the number of paupers found on the books prior to the operation of the present law, amounted to 897 ; and although the Union-house has not been in a state to receive inmates till of late (I believe only from the first week in June), yet a considerable decrease in the number of paupers appears ; as they do not at present exceed 395, in the 18 parishes first incorporated ; and it should be here observed that the estimate of expenditure is made upon these only ; the towns of Hythe and Folkstone having joined the Union too recently to form a satisfactory statement of their success. Exclusively of these the averages amounted to £7424, and the population to 8212.

PARISHES.	From 31 July to 29 Sept. 1835.			For Quarters ending								
				25 Dec. 1835.		25 March, 1836.		24 June, 1836.				
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Acrise	12	0	9	18	10	0½	23	18	7½	23	8	5½
Cheriton	52	17	1½	114	13	7½	117	8	11½	103	6	4½
Elham	63	4	1½	119	15	6½	140	12	11½	131	9	1½
Elmsted	31	9	3	53	19	1½	60	9	4½	62	8	9½
Folkstone Parish	63	18	10½	150	8	1½	201	2	0	160	10	1
Hawkinge.....	3	10	4½	7	0	1	7	7	2½	5	13	6½
Lyminge	35	19	0½	57	16	11½	72	4	11½	81	15	5
Lympne	46	9	11½	87	14	2	95	18	2½	97	9	4
Monks Horton ..	6	1	6½	11	10	3	13	14	2½	10	4	5
Newington	39	0	1½	89	9	1½	90	11	3½	88	5	5
Paddlesworth ..	5	7	7½	7	9	8½	7	13	0	10	11	8
Postling	14	6	5½	22	12	5	29	18	11½	33	12	9
Saltwood	33	19	11	53	2	5	131	10	3½	79	19	4
Sellinge	26	17	6½	47	18	5	45	15	9½	53	17	10
Standford	4	8	0	12	4	4	15	18	0½	14	5	2
Stelling.....	5	7	4½	12	9	9½	15	3	8½	13	16	10
Stouting	15	7	8½	21	0	11	21	13	5½	25	3	5
Swingfield	35	0	5	92	5	6	83	10	5	91	4	10
	495	6	2	980	0	6½	1174	11	4½	982	2	10

The dietary is *that generally adopted* in East Kent; the same as that, which I and my relative tried experimentally for a month; and which proved to be *more than sufficient for us*; and although experience shows it to be so much easier to find *fault* with the dietary, and other provisions of the Act, than it is to correct *abuses* and *benefit* the people;—either by acrimonious observations, or inuendo on the conduct of the Boards of Guardians, or on certain traits in the procedure of an individual Board; (a specimen of which may be observed in one of the local papers of recent date) yet the man who rests on legitimate justice cannot consent rudely and violently to trample on the laws of his country, with impunity to his own conscience; he will, whilst propelling the law, ever be desirous of tempering justice with *mercy*; and every one possessing a common share of sensibility must religiously desire *that quality* to be exercised on the deserving of all grades, age, and sex. I may here observe that I hope, and believe, that the existing law will eventually prove to the younger portion of the present generation, a merciful, though an admonitory act; the term *merciful* will be doubt-

less objected to by some ; but it must be recollected that there are those among us who are determined to find fault ; to do it prudentially if practicable, but at all hazards to do it ; I would therefore simply state that *I consider it merciful*, to afford the poor helpless man, who from carelessness or unavoidable distress, had no where to lay his head in peace, a place of refuge ; this is now procured for him ; either from amongst his nearer kindred, who may be in a condition to maintain him, or, should he have none, which in common fairness perhaps I ought to admit is not unfrequently the case, in another asylum where he has plenty of wholesome food and necessary raiment ; is kept clean, his health attended to, is separated from noisy boys, has an opportunity of attending religious worship with perfect toleration ; and is in a condition, *I sincerely hope and believe*, as comfortable as those of his stamp in society are elsewhere ; at least those of his probable age and infirmities, being presumed to have attained his sixtieth year. Should he prefer living out of the house on the 2s 6d per week the board allows him ; made more satisfactory by the casual attention of his neighbours, or the occasional earning of a trifle ; if he be of good repute, this option is given him. It may however be objected to, by those more fastidious than *I am*, in prosecuting the law to the *very letter*, instead of being actuated by its *spirit*, that the earnings I have admitted as a probable consequence of industry in a few cases, should be received by the labouring men ; and that these should be paid to the Union accounts, and consequently deducted from the weekly relief afforded ; but to him who would prohibit the *poor, old, worn out man* from increasing his comforts by his industry I would say :—

“ Tarry a little ;—there is something else ;—
 This bond doth give thee here no jot of blood ;
 The words expressly are, a pound of flesh ;
 But in the cutting it, if thou dost shed
 One *drop* of Christian blood, thy lands and goods
 Are, by the laws of Venice, confiscate
 Unto the state of Venice.”

The present law may be considered an admonitory one to those who prefer independence to that state of dependence upon others which the defunct law had so generally engendered. The younger portion of the industrious classes should, by, and through it, be taught to acknowledge that the evils by which their fore-fathers were beset, caused them to be deprived of that freedom and liberty of action every sane man must prefer; these evils were those of drunkenness, whoredom, gambling, and idleness; such are not only the enemies to a necessary economy which might in many instances ensure a maintenance for old age, by the aid of the friendly societies, (founded on undoubted security,) but will be found destructive to that content of mind and peaceful conscience, every man of the least reflection must desire.

Thus will the present law be found, I imagine, acting as a monitor, director, and friend! It is however admitted, and should, I think, be promulgated, that Union-houses are *not intended* as the receptacles of the able-bodied of either sex; neither is it desirable that the comforts for the idler, drunkard, or vagabond, should be at *all extended*; but that these houses should afford a *just measure* of comfort to the old, blind, lame, and otherwise infirm, who have no means of supporting themselves. They are intended to improve morality, through the restoration of independence; to relieve the rate payer, and generally correct the abuses with which the former law abounded. Mr. Jones informs me that labourers in the Elham Union are all employed, that they are more vigilant, particularly in seeking out a succession of work, that he considers the new law to be restoring economy, and a just appreciation of the situations the poor respectively fill; and that they, knowing it to be the law of the country, are willing to obey it! Mr. Thompson writes "as regards the feelings of the paupers in this Union, I may say that we hear of but few complaints; and they seem to be reconciling themselves to the circumstances of their case." The Board meets every Friday!

The Bridge Union was declared to be formed from and after the 20th of April, 1835. It contains 22 parishes, with a population of 10,439; the average rate is stated at £8492 for the three years prior to the formation of the Union. It has an intermixture of good and ordinary soils within its limits, though the prevailing quality is considerably in favour of the former. Its area, from north to south, viz., from Fordwich to Womenswold, is about nine miles; and from east to west (i. e., from Barham to Waltham), it may be stated at a little over seven miles. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are Robert Lake, and P. Dowsett, Esqs. In this Union a very striking decrease appears in the number of paupers, as I find, at the formation of the Union, a return of 1900 persons was made, who were in the weekly receipt of parish aid; whereas, in the quarter ending the 25th of June last, only 705 names were returned as out-door poor receiving relief; and 107 within the Union House. The officers attached to this Board are the following—

Auditor.....	Mr. Richard Pilcher
Chaplain	Rev. C. Fielding
Clerk	Mr. Herbert Collard
House Surgeon	Mr. A. Sicard
Relieving Officer	Mr. Wm. Forth
Schoolmistress.....	Mrs. Ann Nash
District Surgeons (pay 10s. } for each case annually) }	Messrs. H. Sicard, C. Horell, F. Sankey, E. Long, & T. Andrews
Collector, at 3d. in the pound,	S. Beachcroft

It is the opinion of this Board (Mr. Collard informs me) that neither schoolmaster nor porter is required. He likewise states that no complaints have yet reached the Board from paupers who have been unable to find work; and that it is the general opinion that the labourers exert themselves much more in seeking employment than they used to do. In this Union, the expenditure of no one parish is estimated at more than £884 on the average of the three preceding years; and it is rather extraordinary that one only has a population amounting

to 1000 persons; the parish of Barham numbering 1,053. One Guardian only is sent from each of the 22 parishes, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman being chosen from among them.

This district is generally farmed with skill, and is highly productive, much of its soil being very genial to the growth of corn and hops; and I imagine there are not 22 parishes in Great Britain to be found so united in geographical position as these are, which can compete with them for the fine quality of hops they send to the Canterbury, and London markets. It is stated among hop-dealers that only a *few choise* growths even from this favoured district are sufficiently potent for brewers to depend upon for the West Indies and other warm climates: but whether this be founded on fact, or has originated in the caprice of some brewer's foreman, I must leave to the decision of the experimentalist who may analyse them; or to him who can judge equally accurately from practical results.

From some cause with which I am unacquainted, I have not been enabled to procure particulars of the expenditure of the *first quarter*; the three others amounted to 4927*l.* 18*s.* 10½*d.*, to which, if we add 1642*l.* 12*s.* 11½*d.* as a just mean for the quarter ending in September, 1835, the year's disbursements stand at 6579*l.* 11*s.* 9½*d.*, which leaves a saving of 1921*l.* 8*s.* 2½*d.*, or nearly 22½ per cent. for the first year's experience of the present system. For the quarter ending the 25th of June last I have obtained the necessary particulars, which are inserted in the next page, and which show the number of days the whole of the in-door paupers have been maintained in the house. These amount to 9922, the cost being 208*l.* 16*s.* 5½*d.*, showing the expenditure to be nearly 2*s.* 11½*d.* per week for each individual. I must here repeat that the total expenditure of this Union appears to be 6570*l.* 11*s.* 9½*d.*, under the supposition that the first quarter (which I have been unable to ascertain) ranged

with the same ratio as the other three quarters; upon this scale I have taken it, and find the saving in the year's disbursements to be, as before stated, 1921*l.* 8*s.* 2½*d.*, adequate to 22½ per cent.

This Board meets at Bridge every Thursday.

STATEMENT showing the Expenditure for each Parish in the BRIDGE UNION, for the Quarters ending 25th December, 1885, and 25th March, 1886, and 25th June, 1886.

PARISHES.	In-Maintenance and Out-Relief of Paupers.		Cost.	No. of Out-door Paupers.	Cost.	Total of In-maintenance and Out-relief charges.	Proportion of Establishment charges calculated on the average of each Parish.	Total charge to each Parish for In-maintenance Out-relief, and Establishment Charges, for the Quarters ending		
	No. of days for In-door Paupers.	No. of In-door Paupers.						25th Dec. 1885.	25th March, 1886.	25th June, 1886.
Ickham	1647	21	£ s. d. 32 7 6½	45	£ s. d. 29 14 9	£ s. d. 62 2 3½	£ s. d. 37 16 6	£ s. d. 97 17 2	£ s. d. 190 19 8	£ s. d. 99 18 9½
Patricdown	607	7	13 10 4½	16	12 11 0	26 1 4½	16 9 10	28 19 1	76 11 2½	43 11 2½
Bridge	664	8	11 12 2½	23	10 11 8	22 8 6½	11 2 11	28 2 8	73 0 9½	33 6 4½
Lower Hardres	811	11	17 8 1½	9	7 3 6	25 1 7½	13 15 11	38 11 9½	65 5 9½	37 17 6½
Kingsdon	91	1	0 0 0	18	14 17 6	14 17 6	11 9 2	31 7 0	55 18 0½	26 6 8
Harbledown	0	1	0 0 0	35	32 8 6½	33 18 5	31 11 8	64 11 0	124 17 0	65 10 1
Waltham	0	0	0 0 0	55	35 8 0	35 8 0	46 11 0	89 2 1	189 18 2½	81 19 0
Upper Hardres	608	11	14 18 0	22	37 13 0	19 13 0	16 8 6	29 9 0	66 0 6½	36 1 6
Bishopdown	484	7	8 6 7	6	5 15 6	41 19 7½	23 4 9	63 9 4	120 5 2½	65 4 4½
Fortwich	1330	22	26 16 1½	44	33 8 1	41 14 8	45 9 5	87 16 10½	184 13 8½	87 4 1
Wickham	1330	22	1 12 4	10	9 2 0	60 10 10½	18 6 9	61 1 10½	133 0 4	68 17 7½
Adham	75	5	4 16 3	9	6 8 1	11 4 4	7 12 10	19 11 10	30 14 8	18 7 2
Stodmarsh	231	5	28 11 4½	35	26 16 10½	65 8 3	35 12 5	17 9 7½	89 5 7½	18 19 8
Beekesdown	1310	19	4 16 10	32	19 18 3	24 15 1	19 4 7	86 7 7½	93 0 11	43 10 8
Littlebourn	132	2	4 16 10	32	20 15 9	24 15 1	19 4 7	86 7 7½	93 0 11	43 10 8
Neokington	132	2	4 16 10	32	20 15 9	24 15 1	19 4 7	86 7 7½	93 0 11	43 10 8
Thamington	64	2	2 16 8½	20	12 16 0	15 12 8½	10 5 0	26 15 1	103 10 0½	50 11 10½
Womenswood	806	9	14 19 1½	44	29 17 7½	44 16 9	29 3 4	67 15 7	133 9 4½	74 0 1
Werkgate	888	12	18 9 2	54	47 17 6½	65 18 8½	42 0 6	94 13 9	193 16 9½	107 17 2½
Barham	0	0	0 0 0	81	68 15 6½	68 15 6½	66 5 9	98 9 6	245 6 7½	125 1 3½
Charham	44	2	1 14 2	36	19 3 10½	20 18 0½	30 15 3	60 0 1½	127 1½ 3	61 13 3½
Petham	9922	144	208 16 6½	705	513 9 1	722 5 6½	540 14 9½	1165 12 8½	2499 5 9½	263 0 3½

TABLE D.

Shewing the saving of the Unions of East Kent from their original incorporation, exclusive of Parishes subsequently united.

	Average.		Diminution in Expenditure.		
	£		£	s.	d.
Ashford, East ...	8,951	.....	3,730	12	7½
Ashford, West ...	7,954	.....	3,390	6	0¾
Blean	10,519	.....	5,114	7	10¾
Bridge.....	8,492	.....	1,921	8	2½
Eastry	14,093	.....	7,278	4	3
Elham	7,424	.....	3,791	19	1
Feversham	16,054	.....	8,855	6	2¾
Milton.....	11,197	.....	5,781	1	8½
River	6,153	.....	566	14	6
Sheppy	6,695	.....	1,692	14	4½
Thanet, Isle of ...	6,299	.....	2,865	0	0
	<hr/> £103,831		<hr/> £44,987 14 11½		

The foregoing statement evinces a saving of £44,987 : 14 : 11½ in the eleven Unions of East Kent, from the 195 parishes first incorporated : since which, there are several large populations added ; viz : Ashford, Deal, Sandwich, Margate, Ramsgate, Hythe, and Folkstone.

The diminution in the expenditure amounts to £43 : 6 : 6½ per cent. per annum !

I have thus endeavoured to present a faithful portraiture of the operations of the "Poor Law Amendment Act," as far as I could possibly obtain information of the procedure of the various Boards. I am aware there is a deficiency of matter, as well as general arrangement, which I did not *at all anticipate* at the commencement of the undertaking; but, although with one or two exceptions, the attention and kindness of the Chairmen, Guardians, and other officers of the various Boards have been every thing my warmest anxiety could dictate, still the labour and difficulty have been *very considerable*.

To the Assistant Commissioner, Edward Carlton Tuffnell, Esq., I feel bound to proffer my very *grateful thanks*, he having assisted me whenever he had an opportunity of doing so, by sending me the particulars required in the most *liberal* and *gentlemanly* manner.

The publication has been, to me, vexatiously delayed from the difficulty I found in a few instances of procuring the necessary data, which it will be perceived has not eventually been well supplied; from these causes it is hoped a generous and liberal public will accept the *will* for the *deed*.

PART II.



IN attempting to make a few observations on the proceedings of the East Ashford Union, one object I have in view is to induce other members of Unions not only in East Kent, but generally through the neighbouring counties, to do that which I am, however imperfectly, desirous to perform, viz., the giving publicity to any peculiar modes or customs by which this Union is governed—such as those of administering relief, the duties of the clerk, relieving officers, the scrutiny these officers undergo, the freedom of debate observable at the Board, by the guardians; the impartiality which obtains, and the prevailing satisfaction evinced by each member at the desired accuracy of putting the law into execution with mildness, and a necessary sensibility. Though there may in some instances have appeared to exist a few shades of difference, as to the extent of relief necessary to be afforded, or a diversity of opinion as to the measure of leniency to be observed, this has always been *fairly* and *impartially* decided by a majority of votes; and I know of no mode more eligible, to arrive at a just and equitable conclusion. Every one must be aware that the opinions of men differ as much as their faces; and although in this Union there are a few who perhaps take a more active part than their neighbours in the investigation of questions of debate, yet I aver every guardian is heard attentively whenever he may think it his duty to address the chairman, either by way of assent or dissent; by his support of an original proposition, or by the proposal of an amendment.

to it;—the chairman maintains good order, thereby enabling every observation to be heard; and is punctual in his attendance, not only as to his weekly visits, but also as to the commencing business; and I am led to believe this Board is as correct, as to the observance and regularity of its proceedings, as many of its compeers, and have always conceived that strict integrity, aided by a patriotic desire to perform the onerous duties of their situation, has been rather remarkably exemplified by the guardians!

On the 5th of June, 1835, a meeting of the Board was summoned at Ashford, at which the Assistant Commissioner was present, who, in an apposite address, pointed out the respective duties of the guardians and the officers in general, who had then just been appointed. My brother was unanimously elected as the chairman of the Board, and Mr. Amos the vice chairman; the guardians next proceeded to the election of a clerk and three relieving officers; for the former, Mr. F. Underdown was proposed and seconded; and likewise, Mr. Adams, of Wye; for Mr. Underdown twenty votes were offered, whilst no more than three or four for the latter appeared,—this gentleman was consequently elected.

Next in rotation was the appointment of the relieving officers, three in number being considered necessary. After a lengthened discussion, (the Union, it should be observed, *then* comprised 22 parishes, containing a population of 9541 inhabitants, scattered over an area of about sixteen miles from north to south, and a width across the centre, of little more or less than four miles;) *the relieving officers*, or rather, the candidates for the appointment, were put in nomination;—Richard Bridger, John Hayward, Thomas Cooke, George Theobalds, and William Fox, were proposed, and the proposals were seconded in the usual manner. Great interest was made by the respective parties, at least, by four of them in

particular; J. Hayward came late into the field, and thereby lost the probability of success; nor was the contest confined to the industry and effort made by the candidates only; their respective friends exerted themselves likewise. I frankly admit I used considerable effort in favor of the election of a decayed farmer, who had been known to me from his boyhood. The voting commenced by the chairman desiring those persons who were in favor of Richard Bridger to hold up their hands, for whom there appeared..... 12

For John Hayward 6

For Thomas Cooke 16

For George Theobalds..... 14

For William Fox 12

The chairman consequently declared that Thomas Cooke and George Theobalds were duly elected; but, that another ballot must be resorted to, for the election of a third officer, as Richard Bridger and William Fox had an equal number of votes; and, although he was aware that he might have decided the question by giving a casting vote, he would prefer the decision should be made without it; he would, therefore, beg gentlemen would raise their hands: In favor of Richard Bridger .. 12

In favor of William Fox..... 9

the former was thereon declared duly elected;—this was very satisfactory to me, as it was placing a weather-beaten man, of competent ability, born to better prospects, above absolute want. I hope this was not an illaudable satisfaction; though I am aware some of the friends of the losing candidate thought a better choice might have been made.

At this meeting, information was sent to the medical practitioners residing in the district, that the Board had come to the resolution to offer them one hundred and eighty pounds per annum for the necessary attendance on the poor within the Union; notwithstanding a professional gentleman had proffered his services for a smaller sum, viz: one

hundred and fifty pounds! this was done from a belief that the latter amount was too small to ensure attendance on the poor in a regular and necessary manner; and also from a desire that they should, as much as possible, have the same professional attendants they had previously applied to;—I should have stated that ten shillings for each midwifery case, was to be added to the stipend. The proposal was accepted by the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Beet and Norwood, of Ashford; Lacy, of Aldington; and Wildash, of Wye; this subject terminated the first day's duty.

A special meeting was called for the 8th of June, for the purpose of electing an auditor; and here again, great effort was made by the respective friends of two solicitors of the town of Ashford; one of whom, Mr. R. Furley, was the respectable clerk to the magistrates of the Ashford bench; the other, Mr. H. L. Rutton; both these candidates appeared satisfied of their success; the former gentleman was warmly supported by the two *ex officio* guardians, who had very considerable interest, from their situation in society; the latter gentleman had been several times previously thwarted in his expectations and desires of attaining situations for which his present opponent had, in one or two instances, been the successful candidate; this induced me to lend him my assistance, prompted likewise by the consideration of the large family he had to support by his professional exertion; but my efforts eventually proved useless. Mr. Furley was very cleverly proposed by Edward Knight, Esq., of Godmersham Park, who in his usual gentlemanly and impressive style, introduced the candidate as a proper person to fill the office of auditor of the East Ashford Union; this imposing address was ably seconded by J. B. Wildman, Esq. of Chilham Castle, who advocated the election of Mr. Furley, as an efficient and useful solicitor, in every way qualified to fill the office of auditor.—I then took upon me the introduction of

Mr. Rutton, stating his amiability of manners, gentlemanly conduct, and general competency, with such other matter as I thought most likely to advocate his interest, which was seconded in a neat speech by Mr. Stunt. After this, Mr. Amos, of Wye, was proposed by his brother, and seconded by Mr. Kennett, each making appropriate observations in support of their friend. The foregoing mode was adopted, by the holding up of hands:

For Mr. Furley	9
For Mr. Rutton	8
For Mr. Amos	4

This controversy was for a time the cause of some little hostility of feeling between two of the candidates, but was afterwards fortunately dissipated by a return to the former good understanding which had long prevailed.

On the 17th of June, the guardians (twenty-one in number) with the addition of the two ex officio representatives, met, and after the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, a renewed discussion followed, upon the sum agreed on for the medical attendance; for although the professional gentlemen acceded to the undertaking at £180 per annum, with the 10s. additional for midwifery cases, yet it appeared to be attended by so much reluctance; and a fear in my mind as to the possibility of its remunerating them, if they paid a due and necessary attention to their official duties, that I moved the Board to amend the resolution by an augmentation of the sum to two hundred guineas; this was met, through an amendment, by a proposal that two hundred pounds should be substituted for the first named stipend of £180; the amendment was carried by 13 to 8. The Assistant Commissioner was informed of this advance, and either obtained the non-assent of the Commissioners, or fancied the intimation to us was sufficient to stop the amended decision,—at all events, it had the desired effect, for the board, I consider, most lukewarmly accepted the will of the Assistant Commissioner,

instead of requesting to see the written objection of the Commissioners!

The next question that occupied the attention of the Board, was the site of the Union house;—a member rose and proposed that six acres of land should be purchased, on the south western side of the town of Wye, which he stated was excellent land, well watered, and *he* thought, very eligibly situated, being convenient to the parish which contained the largest population in the Union, and, he imagined, placed in the centre of it;—here a question was asked by Edward Knight, Esq. as to the price per acre; also, whether a smaller part than the six acres would be disposed of? It was replied, that it would not be divided; and that *one hundred pounds* per acre was the price; this being seconded, I rose, and asked my brother guardian what maps he had consulted to prove the situation being so central as he had described it? as I had looked to the ordinance map, and also to Smith's general atlas, and I came to a very different conclusion; the distance from north to south being about sixteen miles, whereas, the situation pointed out by the worthy gentleman was only about five miles distant from the northern extremity; and as to the centre from east to west, the spot proposed would be that of the most easterly parish; and certainly not a central position; that in a pecuniary point of view, it was equally *undesirable*; as in one case an outlay of six hundred pounds was required; the interest of which, on a moderate scale, would cost the Union £24 annually, instead of which, as we had an offer very kindly made by the Earl of Winchelsea, to enrol five acres of land *near the turnpike road*, on Willesborough Leese, upon payment of £3 : 6 : 8d. annually; this, in reality, *was a central position*, surrounded by good roads, and very healthy;—thus, without *any outlay of capital*, with an interest diminished by £20 : 13 : 4d. yearly; by adopting the latter site, the entire outlay, with a consider-

able sum in interest, would be saved, whilst we should act more justly towards the guardians who lived in the extremities of the Union; and I considered, far more consistently with that economy they were bound to study;—under these feelings, I must take leave to propose, by way of amendment, that “Willesborough Leese” be the spot for building the Union house, instead of that proposed in the parish of Wye. After considerable enquiry of medical men, and others, as to the healthiness of the place, with some of a local nature, which were satisfactorily replied to, the chairman put the amendment, as is usual, first, for which eleven hands were raised; then followed the original proposal, when there also appeared eleven! this was followed by a short observation or two, when the chairman stated that he had forborne to use the privilege which a fortuitous circumstance had vested in him; he alluded to his holding a casting vote; and he could not but state that he was so satisfied, from the observations which had then been made, as well as from a prior consideration of the subject, that Willesborough Leese was the most appropriate situation, that he felt it *his duty* to decide in favor of the *amendment*; observing, in conclusion, “I assure you, gentlemen, if I did not *conscientiously* believe this to be a more central, economical, and otherwise desirable position, I would not have thus decided; no—not for the value of the Leese.”

Sir F. B. Head here declared his opinion was, that the Board had come to a sound and just decision.

Orders were then given to the clerk to advertise for tenders of contract for the building, and, with a few matters of minor importance, the meeting was concluded. On the 24th the board again met, and after the reading of the last minutes, a report was read from a select committee, appointed to inspect Willesborough Leese, fixing on the site most suitable for the erection of the house; which

was unanimously agreed on. After contracts for flour, bread, &c. had been decided on, it was agreed; tenders should be advertised for; and that the chairman be requested to confer with the Earl of Winchelsea, or his solicitor, upon the mode most desirable to secure the permanent interest in the land taken from his lordship's manor for the purposes of the Union; directions were afterwards given, that Mr. Thomas Thurston, the surveyor, should measure and map the same; as well as set out the piece of land required to erect the buildings on; other minor arrangements were made, and the Board adjourned.

On the 1st of July, the Board met at Ashford, as heretofore; the minutes of the former meeting were read, and the tenders examined for the building contract; after which, it was decided, that Messrs. Cousins and Co. should be treated with, at a sum rather upwards of £4000! it was true this was the lowest tender, but it always appeared to me, that the guardians should have had an estimate taken of the necessary expenditure; as, without any reflection intended to be cast on the Board as to their judgment in estimating the value of the buildings, I am firmly of opinion, that no one of our body *knew* whether the sum was, or was not a fair amount; nay, I should imagine, not within five hundred or a thousand pounds!

About the 13th instant, a meeting of the chairmen and their deputies took place at Canterbury, who were joined by the Assistant Commissioner, and although the whole particulars of this meeting never transpired, so far as to have the public generally informed of its procedure, it was understood to relate to the dietary; the maximum and minimum of pay, as the authorised allowance in cases of need; and other matter, relative to the procedure of the guardians; but, as I was not at the meeting, my information is very limited thereon.

At a meeting on the 15th, a portion of the business at Canterbury was formally reported;—the

chairman asked permission to retire, on account of repeated attacks of gout, and other inroads on his health; but after a general expression of *desire* that he should continue, he, with considerable reluctance, consented to remain, if he were at all able to fulfil the necessary and responsible duties of the office. A considerable discussion afterwards ensued, in consequence of a question I took the liberty of putting to Sir F. Head, it was put thus: "I have frequently heard from you, Sir Francis, as well as others, that it was the intention and desire of all concerned in the administration of the new law, to place the honest, industrious, and praiseworthy laborer in a condition superior to the dissolute, idle, and profligate; this is what I am very desirous of *knowing*; I have never heard it at all satisfactorily explained, and shall be pleased to hear how it is to be achieved?" I was not so fortunate as to procure a reply from the gallant knight; though Mr. Wildman endeavoured to explain it; and although this gentleman, in a long desultory speech, used no inconsiderable effort, I must confess I was not much satisfied with the elucidation; it being no direct answer to my question. Here the chairman called the attention of the Board to the business of the day; observing, if long speeches were made, we should be unable to get through the work;—a long discussion, however ensued, as a preliminary to fixing the principle of relief, and the collection of rate; and was concluded by an order for overseers to bring their parish books to the next meeting of the Board. A question was here put to the Assistant Commissioner, the reply to which, caused our risible nerves to be operated on; it was from the chairman;—"If the Board of Guardians should make any payments, or do any thing which the Poor Law Commissioners refused to sanction, on whom would the loss, or other consequence fall?" the laconic reply was "you must find out."

The relieving officers were then severally called

in, and examined as to their acquaintance with, or knowledge of the poor of their respective districts: they were desired to be prepared, at the next board, to commence operations, that their accounts would be inspected weekly, and balances struck;—a proposal was made for removing earth and leveling ground, which was thought exorbitant, and consequently declined; after consulting on the necessity of altering the pitch of the guardians' room, the practicability of warming by flues any necessary parts of the building, &c., the meeting adjourned.

On the 22nd, after the minutes of the last meeting were read, the Board divided into several select committees to investigate, and afterwards arrange the parish books, for the striking of the average expenditure for the three years prior to the passing of the "Poor Law Amendment Act;" this was found to require great attention, and to be fraught with more difficulty than many expected; some progress was made; and at a late hour, the Board resolved to call a special meeting for the following Tuesday, and adjourned.

On the 28th the Board again assembled; the inspector, Mr. Whichcord, attended, and pointed out several necessary alterations, deviating from the contract, particularly as to the under-pinning, three additional windows, and other conveniences. On the chairman's asking if he considered 250 persons could be *healthily* lodged in the building, he replied in the affirmative: the Board then proceeded in arranging the averages, but found this a work of labour, requiring great attention and soundness of judgment, the parish farm of Aldington occupying the whole board for a long time, as to the mode in which the *very serious loss* of that undertaking was to be stated. It was ultimately agreed that a case should be laid before the commissioners, and their decision taken.

On the 29th the Board met again, and investigated the several cases of pauperism of twelve

parishes, appropriating relief in unison with the new law; sparing a few members to proceed with the averages of the remaining parishes; and, after sitting from ten in the morning till after six, adjourned.

Aug. 5th. Read minutes of last Board, then proceeded to apportion relief, or dismiss the several pauper applications, through the relieving officers. Sir Francis Head made a complimentary address, thanking the guardians for their attention to their various duties, and personal kindness to himself, on taking leave for West Kent; after which the business of averages was again worked at, though the whole could not be concluded, owing to the commissioners having omitted to send a reply to the statement relative to parish farms, of which there were three or four in the Union. This delay was thus unavoidable. The contractor was offered £25 for removing earth before observed on, for which £40 was demanded, and afterwards reduced to £30.

12th. Read minutes of last Board, then proceeded with averages, under the direction of the commissioners. This engrossed almost the whole day. Examined the relieving officers, and attended to their applications; directed the surveyor to inspect the mortar used in the building, and report thereon, as well as on other parts of the procedure. Adjourned rather earlier.

26th. Met at the usual hour, ten o'clock; read the minutes of last Board; closely inspected the accounts of the relieving officers, and found them generally satisfactory. The surveyor reported that a part of the mortar was not sufficiently good, and also ordered some timber of inferior quality to be removed. Revised fourteen parishes, where averages had been taken, and adjourned at four o'clock.

At this period, indeed for a few weeks prior to it, a dietary was spoken of as being likely to obtain through East Kent; and as I felt some doubt as to

the sufficiency of the food allotted for the daily sustenance of the different ages and sexes, I resolved to try the quantity myself for a month. This will doubtless be considered a whim : be it so. After the trial terminated, I addressed the following letter to the "Kent Herald" newspaper, which was copied into the "Maidstone Journal," and observed on elsewhere ; but as it is probable it was not generally perused, it may not be amiss to insert it here, as the particulars were faithfully and truly related in every respect.

(For the *Kent Herald*.)

"TO SIR F. B. HEAD, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
OF POOR LAWS, &c., &c.

"Sir,—Having, as you are personally convinced, felt considerable anxiety on the probable operation of several important clauses of the 'Poor Law Amendment Act,' and having rather publicly expressed myself strongly opposed to much of the machinery of the measure, as well as imagined the dietary fixed on for the several union-houses of East Kent would be inadequate to the necessities of nature, I resolved to make, at least for one month, a trial in my own person, of the validity of such an opinion.

"This trial terminated yesterday ; and, as I feel ingenuousness to be a necessary ingredient in the human character, and one which I hope to exhibit through life, I have considered it but fair to state, for your information, and that of the public of East Kent, that my apprehensions, which were by no means peculiar to myself, were, as to the quantity of food, *quite groundless*, the supply for me (possessing a good appetite) being more than sufficient ; indeed I did not require, and consequently consume, more than five-sevenths of the quantity ! and I fully believe, for the month, I ate less than that proportion ! I should have stated earlier, not for your information, Sir Francis, but for those who are at least equally interested with you and me, that for four days in the week 22 ounces of food is the intended allowance to male paupers, and for the three remaining days one pound of meat, or puddings, and vegetables, with 14 ounces of bread and cheese each day.

"I may here state that I have *rigidly* refrained from the use of wine, and other fermented liquors, saving the *luxury* of *small beer*, and this is, I believe, the only inroad made on the *letter* of the whole regulations. An intimate friend, also a guardian, has made common cause with me, and joined in the trial. His declaration is, that the quantity is sufficient for him, indeed, *considerably* more than he requires. We are gratified to find this result ! Perhaps we are the only two individuals in our grade of society who have really made a practical experiment on this head, in the eastern division of our county ; and I may truly add that our health has been adequate to that of any former period.

" At present, appearances are against the probability that a regular employ will be provided for the inmates of the East Ashford Union Asylum ; therefore, I cannot term it *workhouse*, or *house of industry*, the more modern term for these buildings ; but as I and my friend have been actively employed for the month of our regimen, I consider this to be an additional satisfaction as to the proof of the sufficiency of the allowance.

" Perhaps I may have, with a near and dear relative, made myself somewhat conspicuous in an endeavour to ameliorate the mode of executing certain clauses of the act ; to increase the bare authority the dry letter of the law places in the hands of the guardians ; to make myself better acquainted with the complicated and almost indefinable machinery with which it abounds ; and although I hope I have not committed myself either in your estimation, or in that of those who have so generally attended the Board, yet I admit that I have delivered my sentiments with freedom, firmness, and a sincerity and anxious desire to achieve for others *that* which I would fain hope they would do for me, should our situations ever be reversed.

" I have previously expressed an acquiescence in your repeated statement, that ' the law being passed, our great duty is to put it into execution.' But I feel another injunction, that it is no less *necessary* to perform that onerous duty with *leniency*, *discretion*, and *mercy* ; the latter of which I think with the poet is ' God's best loved attribute.' I ardently hope the day is not far distant when the honest, industrious, and worthy labourer will *visibly rise* in society, forming a distinct grade from the idle, dissolute, and otherwise immoral.

" This distinction the law professes to promote, may it *forthwith* proceed till its profession is *amply verified*. With equal candour I admit the propriety, and avow the necessity of a more liberal payment for the professional services of the medical gentlemen, lest the unfortunate poor of our various Unions should be bereft of the attention and kindness due to their several cases. I regret to feel, Sir, that those who have arranged our public establishments, have consented to too great an expenditure for *setting of bricks*, and too small a one for *setting of bones*. I allude to the great and uncalled for outlay on the building at Willisborough. It is, in my opinion, far more extensive than we are ever likely to require ; nay, Sir Francis, I stated, as I now believe it to be, to the amount of £2000 ; a sum, in these days of pecuniary difficulty, of no *mean* magnitude. The guardians, I think, should not have yielded their well founded practical opinions to the eloquent theories brought into operation with so much tact against them ; they should have persevered, as they are the best judges of their own ability, as, from *practical* men, *theorists* may frequently gain much *necessary* information. If then the superfluous expenditure on the house, had been appropriated to increase the comforts of the most worthy inmates, enlarge the salaries of the medical men, and other public officers ; I, for one, should have considered our business to have been conducted with more accuracy and deliberate usefulness ; this

too would have furnished the agreeable and necessary means of suitably acknowledging the spiritual duties to be performed,—duties which I am confident, from the knowledge I have of the reverend gentlemen of the district, would be marked by the pure principles of Christianity. I trust this will not be overlooked,—and though there are many other considerations, too numerous for a single letter, yet a few of these alluded to are amongst the most prominent.

“ The great versatility of your shadow’s genius, as exemplified in the ‘Quarterly’ for April, can but make the men of Kent smile, as well as frown; its powerful pen possesses the ability to enhance or subdue; by its portraiture to turn into ridicule and contempt the principle of management of some parish officers; whilst that of others, more assimilated to the new law, evinces such an *unmeasured* courtesy by its flattering eulogium, that I have sometimes been surprised that any should have been so highly appreciative of the compliment. In other delineations, where the ignorance and cupidity of parish officers, and masters of workhouses are the shadow’s theme, how is the following stanza verified?

‘ Lest men believe your tale untrue,
Keep probability in view.’

“ In this, certainly ingenious production, we find not only the grave and the gay, the serious and the ludicrous; but the religious and irreverent, the moral and obscene, all mixed up together, as our county’s characteristic; a characteristic pretty fully fraught with ignorance and folly; but we have in the same episode of this phantasmagorical writer, some reasoning upon interesting subjects, which indicate a clear head assisted by a sensitive heart; if a phantom can be imagined to possess either one or the other!

“ Among these, I own, Sir, I was much pleased with the recital of the interview which took place with old George Philpotts, the celebrated Deal boatman; it is a simple, interesting, and well-told tale. I imagine every class of readers must be pleased with its narration; but, lest any should doubt of its reality from the exuberance of imagery displayed in a part of the anterior descriptive scenery, I can state my delight on hearing from a friend, who resides in ‘Deal,’ only yesterday, that the recital is *faithfully portrayed*, and I fancy, Sir, you can feel in no trifling degree, how my satisfaction was augmented, by hearing from the same authority, that ‘old George Philpotts’ had been subsequently visited, not by the visionary narrator, but by the principal; nay, Sir, by the Assistant Commissioner himself, who, in the most unostentatious manner, had made the good old man’s *heart glad*, most *joyfully* so, by the munificence and genuine philanthropy of this gentleman!

“ Such a trait, the spontaneous effort of a refined sensibility, is worth a hundred public exhibitions, and does, in my conception, immortal honour to the *heart* that propelled the *hand* to execute such genuine *‘*English charity*.’

“ I have the honor to be, Sir,

“ Very sincerely your’s,

“EDWARD HUGHES.

“ Smeeth-Hill House,

“ 12th Aug., 1835.”

* The article in the Quarterly Review is headed thus.

Aug. 26th. At the meeting of the Board this day, the minutes of the last meeting were read as usual; the relieving officers were called in, and their applications severally gone through; these are already become considerably less numerous; their accounts carefully examined, and after this the averages were finished, with the exception of one small parish, whose guardian was absent, and had omitted to send his books; these were all attentively revised, taking up a good deal of time, and requiring accuracy, impartiality, and perseverance; the surveyor was also conferred with, upon the subject of ventilation, which it was concluded to procure by admitting air through gratings about the size of a common brick; two of these were to be placed in each room, and fourteen in each of the halls for men and women. The chairman gouty, and very much troubled to perform the duties of his office.—On the 2nd of September he addressed a letter to the rector and other parishioners of Mersham, for permission to retire from the guardianship of their parish; considering it wrong to undertake the duty without a reasonable probability of being enabled to fulfil it; that the gout, with other inroads on his health, precluded such probability;—he therefore hoped the gentlemen would excuse his longer continuance in office. *To this*, the parties addressed, expressed regret at his retirement, and particularly for the cause thereof; thanked him for his efficient services, and hoped to hear of his improved health very speedily.

The same cause, ill health, obliged this gentleman to vacate the chair at the Board, which he did by means of a letter addressed to the vice-chairman and board of guardians; and the proposal was acceded to with a general expression of *regret*, for the loss of the services of one (although my brother, I state it) who on all occasions, acted from the purest motives of justice, honour, and impartiality; this may be considered eulogy; but, if modesty whispers “the truth is

not always to be spoken" *justice* fearlessly demands the "*truth*, the *whole truth*, and nothing but the *truth*!"—The Board, by a unanimous vote, desired their thanks to be communicated to him, for his great attention to the duties of his situation.

Mr. Amos, the vice-chairman, here expressed his earnest desire also to retire, to which, as he strenuously urged it, the Board acceded, thanking him *very kindly* for his services, and soliciting him to continue his seat.

Here a new occasion of selection was forced upon us; and it was thought best to fill up the vacancies directly :—Having a gentleman in view, whom I considered more than ordinarily useful, not only from his situation in society, but from his impartial justice, at all times tempered with mercy, integrity, and benevolence; made more useful by a knowledge of the law, and a persevering attention to its duties;—I took the earliest opportunity of proposing Edward Knight, of Godmersham Park, Esq., as a highly efficient and proper person to succeed the retired chairman: this was duly seconded, and responded to by the whole Board; but the worthy gentleman could not be prevailed on to take upon himself the duties of the office.—My next proposal was, that J. B. Wildman, Esq. of Chilham Castle, should fill the chair; observing that this gentleman was so generally versed in the "Poor Law Amendment Act" that the duties of the chairman would be quickly rendered easy and familiar to him; and that I *hoped* he would not refuse the solicitation. The honorable gentleman hesitated, and the bearing of his observations was, a preference to decline the post.—Here, two gentlemen begged *me* to accept the appointment; proposing me, and seconding the proposal; all the guardians too, most kindly promoted the selection; but, after thanking them with great sincerity, I *quite declined the honor*; and renewed my solicitation that Mr. Wildman should accept the appointment; but, on his continued inclination to decline the

proffer, I proposed to him my feeble assistance, as his deputy chairman, if he would preside; this he acceded to, and the elections were passed.

Having given rather a tedious detail of our Board meetings, I shall not consider it necessary to continue a minute account of them, but proceed to any other matter that may vary the monotony of a weekly history of the pauperism of a few parishes, not, under any circumstances, very interesting to those wholly unconnected with them.

We continued to hold our meetings at Ashford; the building proceeded but slowly; instead of its being finished in October, the period for completion of the contract, many conceived it could not be finished by Christmas; and some of the guardians stated their belief that the building would not be in a proper state to receive its inmates till Lady-day; the latter was the most correct judgment, for such was our mortifying experience; notwithstanding a pretty frequent remonstrance from the Board, against the continued tardiness of the contractor.—October was now passed, and the day of finish appeared very distant; during this month, the guardians continued to attend to their duty with considerable punctuality; the relieving officers' duty evidently diminished, and the Board now became pretty well acquainted with its various undertakings.

About the 30th of December, in consequence of advertisements declaratory of our desire to engage a governor and his wife, five candidates appeared, who, from the very respectable testimonials they brought, all seemed eligible. On the day of election, an extraordinary contrariety of appearance was manifest from former elections; it may not be forgotten that on several divisions we were within *one*; or exactly *alike*; but, instead of a close competition, as in the instances I allude to, although, as I before observed, there were five candidates, bringing with them high testimonials, with a confidence on the part of the guardians in

them, from the highly respectable parties who attached their signatures to these recommendations, together with the healthy, competent, and suitable appearance borne by the candidates themselves, caused some surprise in me, that the election terminated in favor of Lt. Goldie, R. N. (a) by the most *unequivocal* and honorable decision in his favor *I ever knew*;—the chairman put to vote the first party, who had presented himself; for whom, not a *single* hand was raised!—The second candidate was announced by name, and the *same* indifference manifested; no hand was held up! A third followed, with no better success;—The next in rotation was Lt. Goldie; on his name being announced by the chairman, *every hand*, as though by mechanism, was shot up! Another candidate was named, but the same degree of apathy prevailed as at the three former calls! The lieutenant was therefore *unanimously* elected, in every sense of the word. The extraordinary testimonials of the gallant officer, I think, alone caused this (to me) novel election; they were expressive of high and amiable character in private life, his long efficient and honorable services in his *country's* weal; the numerous engagements with her enemy, he had participated in; where his heroism was stated through the various ranks of admirals and captains, with almost enthusiastic energy; he having bled more than once in conflict.

Testimonials were sent to the Admiralty from Vice-Admiral the Duke of Bouillon, in the year 1811; from Admiral Sir James Saumarez, Bart., in 1820; from Vice-Admiral Colpeys, in 1824; from Capt. Hamilton, in the same year; from Capt. Nash, also in that year; Capt. Mason, in 1826, conferred the same favor on the Lieutenant, as did Vice-Admiral Sir H. Blackwood, in 1830; in 1831, Vice-Admiral Sir J. P. Beresford; in 1834, His Majesty, the King, recommended Lieut. Goldie (a) to the command of the Swan Cutter. Several

others swell the number of testimonials, viz.: Vice-Admiral Sir G. Cockburn, Capt. Spencer, &c. These all uniting, were overwhelming; and an English tribunal added another laurel to those he had so honorably achieved from the Foreigner.

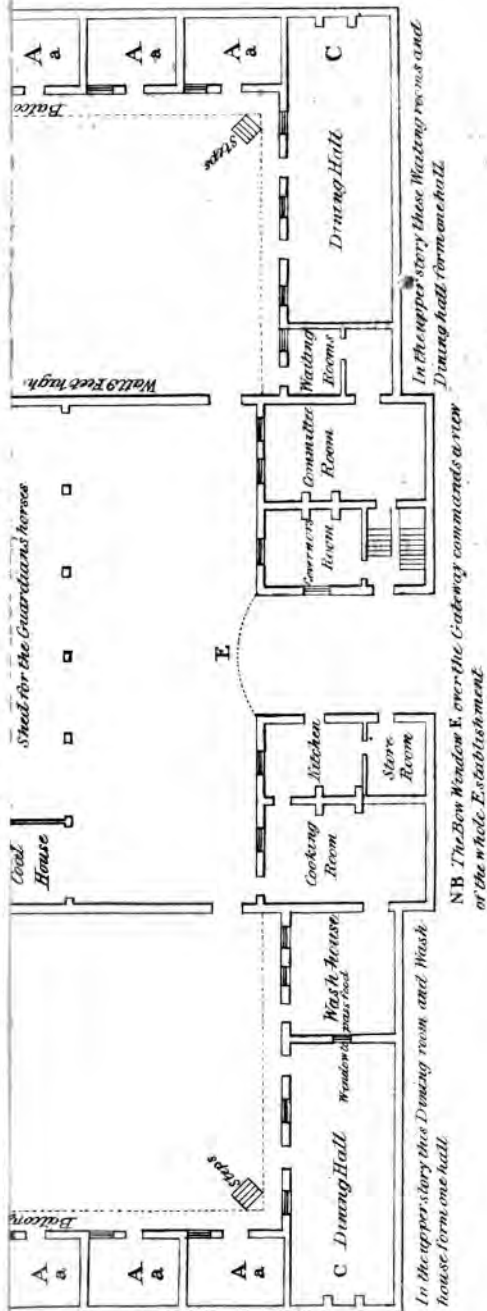
It appears the Lieutenant has served his country forty-two years, in His Majesty's Navy;—that he fought in four general actions.—On the 29th May and 1st June, 1794, under Lord Howe; also in the same ship, the *Queen Charlotte*, in Lord Bridport's action; and again, in the *Rattler*, Capt. F. Mason, in Sir Sidney Smith's action; in three other actions with the enemy's flotilla and batteries, in 1804. On the 8th March, 1801, he landed in Egypt, as acting lieutenant of the Dictator, Capt. James Hardy, and was found in action on the 13th and 21st: these, with being engaged in nine skirmishes and thirteen boat skirmishes, form, at least, an outline of the services of our Governor, Lieut. Goldie, R. N. (a)

Mrs. Goldie, too, had recommendations of a highly respectable character, which were every thing the Board required.

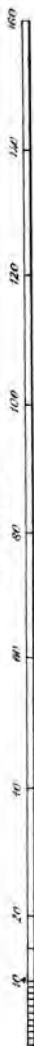
Finding there was yet no probability of occupying the new house, and although we all considered the brick work to be well executed, we conceived *that* to be no cause why such a tedious delay had taken place; and which ought not to have been permitted;—the utility of a committee for the inspection of the building was very soon perceptible; as it usually will be seen that those who have to provide finances are the most expert at discovering where economical improvements may be made.—At the time our first visit was paid, as an authorised body, we instantly perceived that the shed, as appears in the plan, (then about one-third erected) for the guardians' horses, was very ineligibly placed, being immediately in front of the governor's room; this almost wholly obstructed the view he so *necessarily* required of his *charge*. The committee considered this of the first importance; exclusive of the closeness which the ordure

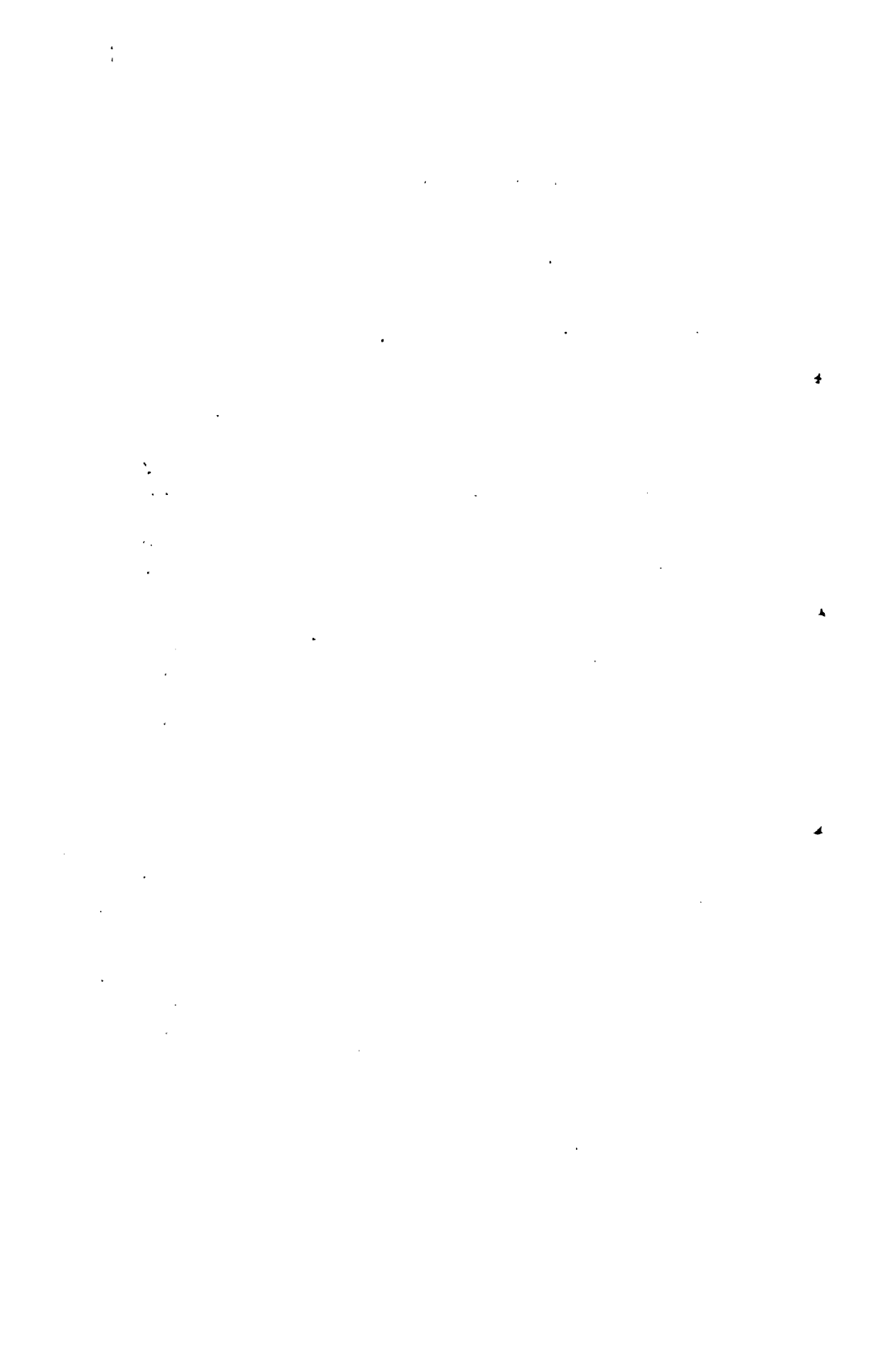
PLAN OF A RURAL WORKHOUSE. FOR 500 PERSONS.

BY SIR FRANCIS BOND HEAD.



Scale of Feet





from the horses would give to the yard, &c. After due consultation, it was considered best to remove it to the exterior of the building, and it is now formed in what I believe is termed a "lean-to," at the back of the dormitories AAA; and a continuation of the same line of building forms a shed for the divers carriages to be kept from wet. We next formed a chapel in the lower story, by converting the dining room C to that purpose; it is so arranged, by a partition, that the pulpit is to be placed with its back to the wall, over the partition which divides the inmates; men and boys being seated on one side, and the women and girls on the other; the minister's voice will be then distinctly heard; he will see his auditory, and be seen by them; which appears to me to be a very suitable arrangement. The chapel is placed on the ground floor of the boys' quadrangle. The committee thought it expedient to save the expenditure of paving the yards, which was intended to be done, either with flag stone or brick; considering that gravel, abundant in the neighbourhood, would answer every purpose; they also directed that four rooms, viz: men's hall B, and women's hall B, should be floored with fir, instead of a brick pavement. The room on plan, marked Cooking room, is now converted into a provision room and a clothing store; and a room for the porter taken from that marked Store-room. A fireplace has been added to the wash-house, and the dining-hall, marked C on the plan of Sir F. Head, is now divided into a laundry, and the remaining portion taken to enlarge the girls' mess-room. Below the laundry and mess-room, a tank has been formed, capable of containing 6500 gallons of water; which is supplied from the top of the buildings, and conveyed thither by drain pipes;—the site of the privies too, have been altered, they being originally placed in the centre, and on a parallel with the dormitories of the men's and boys' wards, on one side, and the women's and girls' on the

other ; they are now erected on the exterior of these sleeping rooms ; and the curved wall, dividing the yards, separates the men's from the boys' convenience, on one part, and the women's from the girls' on the other.— Under the committee-room and governor's parlour, cellars have been dug for the uses of the establishment ; and adjoining to the waiting-room, in which a fire-place has been added, a water closet is built ;—at each end of the chapel, a fire-place is seen ; one only being marked on the plan ;—the fire-place in each of the halls marked B is placed at the angles, instead of two hearths in each, as was first proposed.

Opposite to the entrance, and abutting to the divisional straight wall, is the receiving room ; adjoining to which, a bath has been formed ; and, at its termination, are two small rooms, one on each side the wall, for the convenience of the men and women washing before meals ; over the latter is placed a cistern, to supply the bath, washing-rooms, and closets ; which cistern is supplied from a well sunk in a place marked Coal-shed on plan ; to which is attached a force pump ;—on both sides of the receiving room, an iron fence, six feet in height, is fixed, which adjoins a line of sheds called the dead-house, strong-room, water closet, washing-room, and coal-shed, on one side ; and the pump-house, washing-room, strong-room, and cooking-room on the other. A wall is continued from both sides of the cooking-room to the provision-room ; and from the coal-shed on the opposite side, another wall projects a few feet, so as to make an acute angle with a third wall in a right line, which terminates at the front of the waiting-room.

The alterations made from the original plan of the upper story, are chiefly comprised in forming a sick-room on the boys' side, and a lying-in-room (which it is hoped will not be much required) over the present wash-house, on the opposite quadrangle. The chapel is intended to be used as a school-room for boys, when it is not required for religious pur-

poses; and that over the girls' mess-room and laundry, is intended to be appropriated to the instruction of the girls.—These, with a few additional conveniences in the governor's apartments, constitute the chief alterations, and, I trust I may add, *improvements*.

As must be presumed, these additional conveniences, most of which have been considered *absolutely necessary*, have not been made without a very considerable augmentation of expenditure; and should any parties chance to peruse this, before their building is commenced, I apprehend it will help to strengthen their opinion on the *necessity* of commencing on the basis of a thoroughly considered, accurately estimated, and perfectly understood delineation.

It has been thought necessary to build diagonal walls, curving to a point, in addition to the main partition between the yards, for the better classification of the people. Over the entrance, it is intended a bell should be placed; and, with these several alterations, it is hoped, this will be a comfortable, well arranged, and healthy establishment.

Early in January, the Assistant Commissioner, Edward Carlton Tuffnell, Esq., met the Board at *Ashford*, and proposed to unite with us *that town* and parish; or the three parishes of Ruckinge, Orlestone, and Warehorne, the small Union which resisted Sir F. B. Head's entreaty. It was remarked by one of the guardians that, *Ashford* would be better for us to take than the more distant parishes; Mr. Tuffnell observed, that it was not obligatory on us to take either, but he *recommended* it.—I stated that we were satisfied with our present numbers, and, as the town of *Ashford* had enjoyed a privilege unknown to other parishes, by keeping single and unattached; I considered that they should make us now a *low bow*, and possibly then we might expect a premium for admission. The chairman thought a good deal with me, and stated, in his opinion, as the parties had decided against joining a Union

before, it was quite necessary we should *consider* before we determined either way; Mr. Knight also thought that the Board should consult its own convenience, and decide accordingly; though, he apprehended, if it were thought *desirable* to admit other parties, the Board would not reject them. Mr. Tuffnell, in a most gentlemanly manner, left the matter open for re-consideration.

The building committee, viz: the chairman, vice-chairman, Mr. Knight, and Messrs. Stunt, Young, and Perkins, again inspected the house, and considered the business to be proceeding rather more actively, and a week or two only was stated to intervene before the buildings might be occupied.

Early in March a large family, Saul Elvy, his wife, and ten children, parishioners of Smeeth, set off for Lancashire; they were carried to London with their luggage in a van; afterwards proceeding by boat, the expenses of which, together amounted to about £17; being fifty-eight miles distant from London. The office of chaplain was not yet filled, though many partial considerations of the subject had taken place; but, as the house was still unoccupied, it was not of the greatest importance, farther than that of making a suitable selection. I made several applications to the resident minister to accept the situation, feeling assured that his high sense of duty, his zeal and ability as a christian minister, so eminently qualified him for the charge; though I was aware this gentleman had two churches, with a moderate share of health only; and I was fully assured he would not undertake the responsible duty if he considered himself unequal to the due and regular performance of it. After some little consideration, he decided to decline the cure; feeling convinced he could not satisfy his own mind, that the time and strength he should be enabled to spare from his two parishes would be sufficient to perform all the duties required.

During an indisposition which I laboured under, and which necessarily caused my absence at several Board meetings, a gentleman was appointed to the chaplaincy of the Union House, which was occupied on the latter end of March by the Governor and his family; and the first Board Meeting was held there on the 30th. I believe the Board elected their chaplain about the middle of May, and agreed on a salary of £40 per annum for his attention to the spiritual wants of the poor. I have *every reason to believe*, that the gentleman selected will perform these duties in a spiritual minded, zealous, and christian manner; that he will visit the sick, bind up the wounds of the broken hearted, and comfort the afflicted.

The East Ashford Board now consists of 25 guardians, with the addition of two ex-officio guardians; from these 27 members are selected a chairman and a vice-chairman, and, although I presume the mode for the examination of applications for investigating intricate cases, and the regulations for the relieving officers, are, in many instances, similar; yet, as I have reason to believe there are *some* variations, it will not be improper to state a few of the proceedings of this Board, in order that others may be induced to be (at least) equally communicative with me, whereby the best selections may be gleaned from the plans of the different Boards of management. At this Union, an early determination was made to hear all applications, complaints, &c. through the medium of the relieving officers; whose duties, the guardians consider should combine a knowledge of the character of every poor man and woman in the several parishes under his cognisance; to be well informed of their habits, either of sobriety, industry, and economy; or the reverse, viz. tipling, idleness, or carelessness of expen-
diture; that he should be constant and punctual at the Board meetings, attentive, correct, and regular at the periodical appointments to dispense either food or money; and that his sole employ is to be

found in attending to the important duty and responsible charge devolving on him. On application being made, the relieving officer takes his book of memoranda, beginning weekly with the same parish, and finishing it before he goes into another; and so proceeds till he closes his list. The following may be considered a specimen of the manner this Board examines and decides on cases; the chairman takes the officer's note book, and proceeds thus;—"Chairman, A. B. of Aldington applies for relief, having been out of work three days last week." Guardian, "What family has he?" Officer, "Four children." "What were his earnings?" "5s. 6d. Sir." Second Guardian, "Does not his wife earn anything?" Officer, "She has a young child and cannot get out till the weather is warmer!" Chairman, "I think this man is a frequent applicant, is he idle, or inclined to tittle?" Officer, "Rather so." Guardian, "I propose that he have 2s." Second Guardian, "I second it." Chairman, "2s. is proposed, is there any amendment; none,—2s. granted." Chairman, "C. D. of Mersham, applies for assistance, he has a wife and six children." "He is a man of good character, I think!" Officer, "Oh! yes Sir, a very honest, industrious, and sober man." "How happens it he applies?" "He has been laid up with an ague, Sir, for four or five weeks, and his wife can do nothing now he is so ill; he also asks for a doctor." Guardian, "I propose that he have 10s. and medical attendance." Second Guardian, "I second it." Chairman, "Any dissentient? none,—granted;—10s. and a doctor."

"E. F. of Bilsington, applies for relief, having been out of work two days last week." Guardian, "It was but the other day he was fined for selling gin, he is often out at fairs, and at other times poaching, so that the farmers do not like to employ him." Chairman, "What family has he?" Officer, "A wife and four children." "What did he earn last week?" Officer, "5s. 6d., Sir."

Guardian, "I propose the case be dismissed." Second Guardian, "I second it." Chairman, "Is there any amendment?" Guardian of his parish, "It is hard that the wife and children should suffer, I propose that he has 1s. 6d." Another Guardian, "I second it." Chairman, "Those who agree in the amendment hold up their hands;—two,—those who are in favour of motion;—hands fourteen; *case dismissed.*"

Chairman, "Who is this G. H.?" Officer, "He is a single man, very subject to fits; he has had several returns of them, but this is a longer bout than usual." Chairman, "Can he be got into the hospital?" Vice-chairman, "My brother is a subscriber, I will make enquiry; this man is a poor helpless unfortunate creature, belonging to Smeeth; I have long known him, he can do but very little; at best, he can scarcely support himself; I propose that he be taken into the house till an opportunity be found to get him into the hospital." Ex-officio guardian, "I dare say he must be an inmate of the house, but it is worth while to try for an order for the hospital; I will second Mr. H.'s motion." Chairman, "Any amendment? None!—*adopted.* Man to be sent to the House." Chairman, "Have you any other applications?" "Yes, Sir, one more not entered; I only had it this morning on my way to the meeting of the Board;—Sarah Johnson, of Brabourne, left her place and returned to her father about a fortnight back, and was yesterday delivered of a child; her father came to me just after I set off, and begged me to say he could not keep her, and hoped that I would remove her, without the Board would allow him the cost of the mother and child." Chairman, "What are the circumstances of Johnson?" "He is a very poor man, with a wife and five children besides this girl, and quite unable to support her." Guardian, "Is the reputed father to be found?" "No, he has absconded." Chairman, "Well gentlemen, you hear the case." Ex-officio, "I propose

that she be placed in the house." Guardian, "I second it." Chairman, "Any amendment? none! *Sarah Johnson to go to the house.*" Officer, "Am I to take her there Sir?" "No, she is within a walking distance; therefore when she is able, she must walk!" Thus finished the officer of the first district.

From what I gather from the kindness of several of the chairmen of Boards of guardians, and their clerks, (whose peculiar attention I here beg to acknowledge) in forwarding the information they possessed, at my request; I perceive that a considerable difference exists as to the mode and amount of remunerating the services of the public officers at the respective Boards; the particulars of which may be seen in table B, page 54.

I believe I have not yet stated that an effort or two was made by some of the pauper applicants at our early meetings to make personal appeal to the guardians, but that was strenuously resisted, and has never since been attempted.

In consequence of indisposition, I had not an opportunity of investigating the machinery and internal management of the house till the first meeting in June. The inmates had commenced the occupation little more than a month; the eating-rooms, dormitories, and sitting-rooms, which I inspected, were well aired, clean, and quite answered my expectations; notwithstanding all we had been informed of the Governor and Mrs. Goldie. I had not so good an opportunity as I hope I shall have, before this epitome of Poor Law management goes to press, of investigating the establishment, from the debility I still laboured under, being fearful of the cold; but all I saw,—all the answers I received, and all my general impression, was *favourable*; indeed, not a shade of anything but satisfaction was observable. The first object of my investigation was six or eight boys; they were wheeling some mould in their own yard to level its surface.

The boys were perfectly respectful, cheerful, and happy. They had no wants, and nothing to complain of, for they had nothing to annoy them. After which, I questioned a woman, thus —“ Well, my good woman, from what parish do you come? not from mine, I think.” “ No, sir, from Wye,” was the reply. “ Have you any thing to complain of?” “ *No, sir.*” “ Then you like your quarters pretty well?” “ *Much better than I thought I should.*” The next person I saw was a man upwards of 80 years of age. He was walking about, in good health, very cheerful, and quite satisfied. As I was upon the point of leaving the premises, I saw another man, very aged, and one I knew; his name was Woodland. I addressed him by his name, and said—“ Woodland, how do you like yourself in your new abode?” “ *Very well, sir,*” was the reply. “ Have you any complaint to make?” “ No, sir, not any.” “ Then you like where you are as well as where you came from?” “ Yes, sir, better; I am more comfortable.” These were all the opportunities I had that day of personally inspecting the procedure and feeling of the paupers; and I pledge my reputation that all I heard from the inmates of the house was entirely satisfactory; but, notwithstanding the general satisfaction given to the poor, some person, as the Governor informed the Board, had propagated the fiendlike, *malicious* story against the institution, that a man had been placed in the strong room for misconduct; and that when the Governor went to see him in the morning, he found him *dead!* This falsehood was forged without the *smallest atom of truth*, no person having been confined; It was therefore

“ As baseless as the empty fabric of a vision,
Which leaves not a wreck behind.”

Perhaps this is not to be *necessarily* observed upon; but I desire to state things as I find them. Some would say, “ Tell it not in Gath; publish

it not in the streets of Askelon." But I feel to know *nothing* of the procedure of the Board, which necessity, and I think policy, requires to be withheld.

A very useful, and, in my opinion, necessary arrangement is made for the weekly inspection of the house ; the state of its inmates, provisions, and clothing ; as well as the conduct, comforts, and complaints, (if any) of those within its walls ; this is to be done by three guardians, taken in their several rotations ; and though they are bound by sterling justice to

" Nothing extenuate,
Or aught set down in malice,"

yet, in a choice of difficulties, should they arise, I think the former must be acknowledged as the most pardonable !

The dietary of this Union is *that* which I *believe* prevails pretty generally through East Kent, and is as generally approved ; though there are some of our Board who, I rather think, would prefer that the poor people should partake of another beef pudding weekly ; which they state would set at defiance the most determined opponent ; and although I am entirely convinced of the *sufficiency* of the present allowance, yet I think it probable, should such a subject be brought upon the carpet, I should be found, on a division, with the " ayes ;" and this for more reasons than one ;—first, because I imagine the variety would be agreeable to those who partook of it ; secondly, because I think it would be attended by a very trifling increase of charge ; and thirdly, from believing it calculated to silence every complaint against the quantity, quality, or diversity of the food ; as recent experience has convinced us there are still those who would decry the system whenever they can obtain hearers ;—but after all I have admitted as to the fare, I am bold to say, that policy, and perhaps *duty*, join hands, in their opposition to creating more comforts than exist at present. It

is not desirable to attract the multitude, but to cultivate a feeling of independence, rather to *shun* the Union-house than to regard it as *tempting receptacles* for idleness.

Although the East Ashford Union will not be found the *most* conspicuous for its management, particularly if the savings from the former averages form the primary rule of decision; yet, in unison with my first intention, that of making an ingenuous statement of the minute details of this Board; when the books are made up I shall hope to do it, though I fear I shall not be enabled to do so in a manner quite equal to that of two or three of the accounts so generously forwarded to me; and particularly to that sent me by H. P. Hannam, Esq., as the production of Mr. Greey; yet I am quite certain no effort will be spared by our attentive clerk, Mr. F. Underdown, whose urbanity of manners, and obliging disposition, are so conspicuous.

This Board owes much to its chairman, J. B. Wildman, Esq., of Chilham Castle, for his punctuality of attendance, his ardent desire to fulfil the duties of his station satisfactorily, as a magistrate, and as the chairman of the Board;—he is prompt in decision, acute in his discrimination, and evinces an acquaintance with the numerous and difficult clauses of the law, in a greater degree than almost any other gentleman I have observed; and I cannot, perhaps, make statement of a greater proof of my opinion, than, that he will not permit his sensibility to prevail over his reasoning faculties; the citadel of justice sapped by sympathy; or a well grounded resolution warped by the indecision or timidity of others.

Though I here confess I always considered the worthy chairman placed too implicit a confidence in the eloquence of the former Assistant Commissioner, particularly as respected the new buildings, they were entered upon without any thing approximating to the necessary investigation, and the

result has verified my supposition, from the hundreds of pounds expended in the various alterations, so absolutely required.

“ Careless of censure, nor too fond of fame ;
Still pleased to praise, yet not afraid to blame.”

Our guardians, as a body, do their duty ;—are attentive, impartial and vigilant ;—I never heard an angry word, or a coarse expression fall from any one of them !! And I cannot satisfy myself to omit a notice of the constant attendance, with the amiable and gentlemanly deportment always evinced by an ex-officio guardian, Edward Knight, Esq., of Godmersham Park ; though evincing a strong desire to *propel the law*, this gentleman’s impartiality and justice are so intermingled with kindness, that I am desirous of thus recording my sense of obligation for his efficient services. To a sound judgment of the law, from long acquaintance with magisterial duties, and joining thereto a genuine benevolence, I know of no reason why I should be prohibited from stating that, for the information of the stranger, which every one knows in the vicinity of his residence.

I have now made a second inspection of the house, and likewise examined several of the poor people ; they are quite as well satisfied as I reported them on my first visit. The old people, who of all others one would like to see comfortable, appeared very happy. One man I conversed with said he had been ten years in a union house before, and that he was 89 years of age. I also had some conversation with my former acquaintance “ Woodland,” who was cheerful and apparently happy. He stated that he “ chewed a little tobacco, and feared he must be deprived of it,” but this difficulty we thought might be arranged between us.

This morning I had the more than *unpleasant* intelligence of an incendiary fire, which destroyed at Brabourne (one of the parishes in this union) a barn, two cattle sheds, and about 70 quarters of

wheat, a part of which was threshed, and remained in the barn's floor. It is also stated that a sow with a large number of pigs perished. I had hoped that this *black deed*—this *vile* and *fiend-like* abomination, had disappeared from our county's calendar of disgrace. What, let me ask the miserable wretch who is guilty of the *heinous crime* of arson, or, in plainer language, that of burning his neighbour's property, is his condition, under the supposition that the offended laws of his country are not, for a time, visiting him with prosecution—and, if conviction follow,—certain death? Is he not suspecting every one he meets to be acquainted with his delinquency? He sees, or fancies that he sees, a reward of large amount offered for his detention; he has an enemy, as he has proved himself to be to others; he suspects many to be plotting against him, and in order to become acquainted with their information, he circuitously sounds them as to the extent of their suspicions; they (being his opponents), he knows would willingly receive so large a reward, reckless of the consequences to him. He becomes alarmed, and it is neither rare nor unnatural that his conscience, speaking trumpet-tongued against him, forces him to confess his ignominy, and surrender himself to the violated law;—his life has become the forfeit, and he is presently launched into eternity! Has he no wife? no children to bewail the fate even of such a father? Can he be so brutally hardened as to leave them under the ban of so disgraceful a character? He has a conscience! Do not his suspicion and misgiving prove this? Does he believe there will be no questions put, and no answers to be given, before the Majesty of Heaven, for this nefarious crime? Let him reflect and tremble; there *will* be a day of reckoning, when no paltry falsehood, no artful dissimulation, no blustering oaths, or the calling God to witness a lie, will avail him. This is to me a horrid reflection. Let the guilty creature immediately repent,

and, by doing all the good he can, by supplicating the fount of mercy to pardon him, and save him from the wrath to come, lest he be plunged into that abyss of torment, of which we know no end ! I can imagine no *earthly gratification* which can accrue from such an event. Does he cause employ to be more abundant ? No ; he destroys it. Does he desire corn to be *cheaper*,—if so, he takes the most effectual means of increasing the price. Neither can he

“ Ride upon the whirlwind,
And direct the storm.”

But to recur to the Willesborough House. I closely inspected to-day the cooking room, and was much pleased with the cleanliness and convenience of the apparatus, as all was in perfect order. The bath (equally well planned for the admission of hot or cold water), with its receiving room, was not only well arranged, but, I thought, a most *necessary* part of the furniture of so large an establishment. The store room, too, was conveniently fitted up, and supplied with stores, and the only defect I perceived in it was the absence of a fire-place ; probably this may be remedied by a movable stove or brazier ; but one or the other, I have no question, must be resorted to. The governor's apartments are very comfortable, being neatly furnished ; they have a most respectable appearance. At present there are only 34 persons of all ages in the house, exclusive of the governor's family. The building is now certainly very convenient, but it has been so greatly metamorphosed, that I question whether the original projector would now recognise it as his production. In its primitive state it was really one mass, or pile, of incongruity ; no order, no convenience, no regularity of principle, at all adequate to the expenditure. It is now the reverse ; perhaps as well arranged, as capacious, compared with the ground it occupies, and as generally useful, as any in East Kent.

There are in the Poor Law Amendment Act some clauses which I should *very much like* to see expunged, or so modified, that the difficulties, and I think *hardships*, would be ameliorated. A hard working man, with a wife and five children, we may suppose to be very partially employed; no loss of time from his own loiterings, but from an inadequacy of employ in his parish and vicinity; he cannot leave his wife and family behind, and seek work at a distance; he has no funds to support them in his absence; he applies to the relieving officer, who informs him that he will take his case to the Board, but that he fears he will not succeed in his application;—it is made; the guardians say, “This is a hard case, but we have *no power* to relieve him; he may be taken into the house:”—*taken into the house!*—a good labourer, honest, industrious, and frugal, and yet forsooth not to obtain employ or assistance, but in a union house! What is to become of a parish which permits many of these scenes to exist?—A man, his wife, and five children, a *good* labourer, would have kept his family and paid his rent, had he received the encouragement every man of his stamp should do. His house is shut up; his landlord possibly distrains on the furniture for rent; if not, the evil day is not far distant. Michaelmas may be at hand, and where is he? Either in the union house, or shut out of his own, as no possibility of paying his landlord exists. Who will let cottages so, as it is notorious that no money on account of rent can be allowed by the parish officers? Will not the unions be speedily filled, if such be the case? The clause of the act relative to able-bodied men expressly says, “No relief shall be given in *money* (except in cases of sickness or accident) to any able-bodied man who is in employment (the same not being parish work), and in the receipt of earnings; nor to any part of his family who shall be dependent on him, or for whose relief and maintenance he shall be liable.” It seems to me

that the *intention* of this clause is *not so harsh* as many interpret it, viz., that under no circumstance can an able-bodied man be relieved *out of the house*; and although it is peremptorily enforced that no able-bodied man shall receive *money relief out of the house*, the clause prohibits *money* only; food, I think, may be administered; which, with the partial earnings of the party, might continue to maintain him till a better supply of work be afforded. Guardians should have their *power extended*;—how can strangers know the character, necessities, the needful encouragement, or the propriety of withholding it, like those who live among the poor? I beseech you who are employers not to suffer such men as I have described ever to see more than the *exterior* of a Union House. The *law* advocates in *words* the cause of the industrious and economical man; let *us* endeavour to *verify* it by our *actions*: let us countenance, encourage, and support such; and I for one must have some stronger proof than the clause before me that *all* the rigidity attempted to be enforced, as part and parcel of the law, can be supported from the words quoted. The better supply of work which I have mentioned, might be begun by even two or three occupiers each taking a man thus circumstanced a week at the market price of labour. If you permit the poor man to go to the union, his House is taken possession of by the landlord, being vacated; what are you to do with him when you either require his services, or become tired of keeping him and his family in idleness? He will return to you *houseless, penniless, and spiritless*. This would be ruinous to all parties; I repeat, it is our *duty* to propel the law; but whilst we do *justice*, let us not forget to love *mercy*! My anxiety is, that no good and striving man should suffer. If there be those, as doubtless there are, who must be coerced, let such only be selected as deserve it!

Let us hope that the encouragement and support recently touched on; so much advocated by the

law, the Commissioners, and their Assistants, will be productive of the advance the really industrious, sober, and generally exemplary man is entitled to; not only from the law, but also, from the praiseworthy manner in which his several duties are performed; his *employer* should be among the foremost to put the plan in practice; he may let him have jobs by the piece; or he may pay him by the day, *according* to his *deserts*;—and though I am quite aware that this mode may be objectionable, on account of the jealousy it may create in the minds of those who, not so deserving, would receive less wages, yet there is another side to the subject; the complainants will, doubtless, in some instances, see the necessity of their employers adopting the course of thus rewarding those who are so justly entitled to the superior pay. The master may fairly say, in the language of scripture, “Go and do likewise,” and your encouragement will be equal to those you imagine to be higher paid than yourselves; it would be better for me to pay *you* at the rate I pay *them*; I should hail the day with delight that I could, with the same degree of justice, satisfy myself that you are all equally deserving of the like wages.” Much might be done to effect this, by the keeping of a cow for a deserving poor man, where pasture land is interspersed with the arable; but if this is impracticable, even *skimmed milk* is very useful in large families, and particularly so, where there are young children; this may be effected with *little* cost to the farmer, and with *considerable* service to the labouring man. Another source of encouragement I would venture to recommend, is the permission of a good workman to bring into cultivation any odd pieces of rough land; let him have these for two or three years; he perhaps will keep his master’s pigs on the stubbles, to save his potatoe crop from their ravage, gratuitously, through one of his boys, or girls; he will sedulously cultivate the waste pieces, and whilst providing a

twelvemonth's provision of vegetables for himself, is unquestionably benefiting the farm. Again, corners of fields, and what are called headlands, are not unfrequently left uncultivated, since the great depression corn has undergone in price; it would be well that the labourers on the farm, (of the greatest deserts) should be allowed to till these; if *no great* pecuniary benefit arise, it will, if I may so express myself, harmonise the employer and the employed; it identifies the interests and feelings of the parties, in the crops of the same field; and, where gratitude forms a portion of the human composition, (though we perceive, in some instances, melancholy proofs of its inactivity) and I would fain hope, none are wholly divested of it, it will be pretty generally obvious, that more than an ordinarily good understanding exists between parties thus connected. Though I am not, at this period of my life, to learn that there are those whom common kindness effects but little; these, either from a morose, churlish, envious, or even, perhaps malicious disposition, may *possibly* continue obdurate; but, from the ordinary observation I have made on these points, my opinion is strongly in favour of the persuasion that a very large majority of our countrymen will be found to be convinced of error, and to be dissuaded therefrom, by a winning mildness, and leniency of deportment, rather than by a continued harshness of tone and manner, easily construed into peremptoriness and despotism.

The new law will, I think, have a good effect in its dissuasion from early marriages; these, under its predecessor, were *very numerous*, and many of them equally unadvised; they were doubtless the cause of much poverty and distress; the young woman will, I hope, (for experience informs us so) be more cautious how she commits herself; (though I ingenuously admit I had much *fear* for the consequences of the clause to which this subject connects itself,) knowing the great

probability of the pecuniary difficulty to which she would be exposed, in addition to the *disgrace*, highly augmented, in the estimation of the public, as the cases are reduced in number ; as it is well known, that under the preceding law, the thoughtless young man knew, with all his giddiness, that he was entitled to employ, or a living, in or from the parish to which he belonged, as a *married man* ; that his wages were advanced from the period of his taking a wife ; but that as a *single* man, he was told to get a place in a farm-house ; that he had no business to be running about in idleness ; that the place he filled the previous year might have been his still, had he conducted himself properly, and not left it through some imaginary difficulty ;—these, with other observations of the like tendency, induced him, (half from revenge on his parishioners, and the other, possibly to compound for the difficulties gathering round him from these improprieties too frequently observable) to *marry* ;—the young woman, I should fear, was less likely to use that necessary precaution which morality and her own character required ; the *probability*, at least, would be, that she would become settled, forgetting, if she ever knew it, that where poverty enters by the door, love frequently escapes at the window.

In very many of these marriages, the parties had not saved money enough to purchase a bed, which, with the necessary number of chairs, a table, and a few culinary articles one would imagine could scarcely be done without. I am quite of opinion, both parties will become more calculating than they used to be ; on one side, the mental interrogatory may be something like this ;—Is Mary likely to help keep a family ?—Did her father and mother bring her up to work ?—Did they teach her to reap ; to make hay ; to tie and pick hops ; and to do what is generally termed “ out-doors work ? ”—If the questions were, (in the majority,) answered in the negative, it is reasonable to suppose,

(without his passion lead him against his better judgment) that he will discontinue his pursuit, and wait till a more suitable connexion can be formed. The young woman, on her part, perhaps may, under the new circumstances, reflect rather more than her sex has been wont to do. "Is John, thinks she, steady and sober? I know he is a good servant, as he has lived in the same place for these *eight years*;—I wonder what he has saved;—I have got fifteen or sixteen pounds in the savings' bank, and, when Michaelmas comes, I shall make it up two-and-twenty.—*He* ought to have, from the place he has had for the last eight or nine years, fifty pounds; this might do for us to begin upon, as I dare say his master would give him a birth, after living with him so long." This would be more in the spirit of by-gone times, and certainly more entitled to commendation than the too common procedure of our peasant youth, for the last half century at least.

The present desire, or passion for emigration may, I think, be carried too far; there is doubtless still a supernumerary population in some of the southern districts, and it is consequently desirable to diminish the numbers, if they can be placed elsewhere satisfactorily to themselves, and usefully to their employers; but the question may be very properly started, how far it would be wise to encourage migration beyond a certain limit: it frequently happens, or I fancy so, that the most useful men are desirous to leave us; this may be imagined to arise from a stronger desire to improve their condition than many of their companions possess; being more economical, more sober and industrious; for this they justly feel, the incertitude there is in procuring constant employ; knowing, pretty well, the difficulties which still attend the agricultural population; and they likewise calculate on *that* population continuing to increase; and, (say they) "there is no more land than there used to be; how can the next generation be employed?" but,

although the argument is good, as relates to the land, it is perhaps, but partially so, as to manufactures. How can they be all employed? may be a question asked here;—though it is easier to reply to the latter than the former, as we *know* the area of Great Britain *cannot* be enlarged; but, there is a *possibility* of our commerce being still increased, as almost the whole world may contribute to this end. But as supply and demand proceed hand in hand, so long, therefore, as this demand for our manufactures continues to increase, families may, to a certain limit, be encouraged to emigrate from these agricultural districts into Lancashire and other manufacturing counties; but, should a sudden suspension, or vast diminution to the present gigantic export of British manufactures ever arrive, it then will become a problem, whether the emigrants will be better here than there. The preceding observation, relating to supply and demand, holds good in agriculture as in manufactures; and it *may* be seen, when too late, that the removal of families from the rural districts, has been too liberally assented to! indeed, I feel that it requires caution on two grounds at least; first, as to the surplus, or imagined superabundance, certain parishes find amongst their labouring population; and secondly, the description of persons to be recommended; these can be only such, if integrity be attended to, as can be sent with a good character, as it is manifest no others would be received. Thus it behoves proprietors as well as occupiers, to consider how they can spare the number contemplated; and, if so, of *what stamp* will be those remaining: unquestionably, others have considered this as well as myself; but, never having heard it broached in conversation, or treated of in any other way, I have ventured to state my opinion.

I am *very averse* to treat any part of this subject on the sordid consideration of pounds, shillings, and pence; though much of it, if ingenuously

stated by the farmer, evidently, (amid his difficulties), rests upon this basis; and indeed, it is almost worse than useless to attempt to put the *feeling* of him who has plied the labouring oar unsuccessfully, for so long a period, out of the question. The farmer, like *other men*, may, during his limited day of prosperity, have emerged from a station which his ancestry filled a century back; and the more he has risen in connexion, education, and habits of expense, the greater difficulty he finds in receding to his former scale. The next generation will, most probably, meet the wishes of certain other parties in the state; and the farmer will resume the once-white gaberdine, the hob-nailed boot-shoes, and hedging gloves; his partner may then be seen preparing the frugal meal (at twelve o'clock) of pork and cabbage, with, now and then, an apple dumpling, as a variety in their season. "then, indeed, he may again be seen jogging towards the market town, either in his tax-cart, with his daughters beside him; the latter being charged with the duty of selling the eggs and poultry; or sitting on his long backed steed, the fore horse of the team, himself in front, his frugal and comely dame on a pillion behind." Perhaps there was more real happiness in this portion of the community at a former period than at present; they were, in all probability, more easy in their circumstances; and, if ignorance be *bliss*, they enjoyed the latter pretty copiously;—neither had they then to contend with the envy of the *more privileged*, or the angry animadversions and machination of the *rick burner*!

Society has, for some years, become disunited, and it remains to be seen whether this bold measure, the "Poor Law Amendment Act," will aid in harmonizing the different sections into which it has been divided. It will, I trust, do something towards eventually bringing about a better state of feeling among us; I have no expectation that it will act as a panacea for *all* the evils which have

befallen us, but I am compelled to admit the persuasion that the time had long since arrived, when it had become imperatively necessary that a change should take place in the regulation of our poor; had the old law continued, my belief is, that more, and *greater* difficulties would have surrounded us; until all hope of safety had fled.

The new act is considered by some a harsh measure, and a mere speculation; but, I think, that with reference to its predecessor, it was quite evident we had nothing to lose.

In the Union of which I am elected a member, particular attention is paid to the pauper's character; and I *lament* it is not in the power of the Board to proffer *more* to the *deserving man* than the very limited authority *which the guardians possess*, enables them to do; we have a few old people of both sexes, upwards of sixty, who are allowed their 2s. 6d. per week out of the house; I am aware that there are some who would prefer that they should all be congregated in the Union House; I cannot say such is *my desire*; nor should I feel myself more powerfully pressed to advocate such a proposal, were I to be assured that a few of these old folk obtained a job or two occasionally to enable them to pay their rent, for their fuel, and clothing, which is not purchased for them if out of the house, or, as they are more technically called, "out-door poor." To prevent such earnings, or stop the pay, may be, and doubtless is by some considered the *duty* of a guardian; it may be the *letter*, but I do not conceive it to be the *spirit* of the law. How can it be imagined practicable for an *old man* to live *like* a man, to pay a house rent, for his clothing, coals and candles, from 2s. 6d. per week? He must earn something, receive assistance from his friends; or potatoes and buttermilk, *Irish fare*, must be his! I am desirous of sketching this little portraiture of our Union, without the possibility of giving umbrage to any, but I am equally inclined to state my

opinions with honesty and candour, whereby it is possible I shall please none ; mine may be by a few considered a middle course of opinion as to the usefulness of the new law ; I do not conceive it such, as I feel myself bound by honour and duty to *revoke* an opinion hostile to the law, which I had formed prior to the experience which I have now obtained, and which I have shown elsewhere ; though I still feel there are hardships to be softened and inconveniences to be remedied. This is very far from condemning the Act, as a whole ; on the contrary, I fully believe, with a revision, and a *few* intermixtures of emollients, the law would not only work well, but prove the *most salutary* enactment on this important subject the country ever witnessed.

The out-poor have a great dis-relish to become inmates of the "house ;" *they*, like men of other grades, *love liberty* ; and it appears to me, they will seek for employ more actively ; appreciate a good master more correctly, and husband their finances more economically than they used to do before the law was in operation ; the worthy man *must be* encouraged, so that his sons may be induced to tread in their father's steps ; the wives and daughters should be taught to assist the man in his earnings, whereby something might be saved to alleviate the pains and anxieties age usually contracts, and to avert that, which very properly by the young, is considered something like a stigma, viz : the terminating their lives in a poor house ; and in the opposite proportion must the drunkard, the peculator, and worthless character expect to be received ; *necessity obliges this* ; were it not so, the injustice to the exemplary would be so striking as virtually to countenance vice and immorality.

A variety of character has, we are led to believe, obtained ever since Eve's transgression ; and though every year that rolls along, brings with it some improvement in the arts and sciences, yet I

fear we cannot, even with our *fondest hopes*, admit this in favour of morality.

“ Nature with novelty does still abound,
On every side *fresh follies* may be found.”

There is another subject upon which I have not made an observation since the feeling I expressed, prior to the formation of our Union ; and it may be presumed, from the studious avoidance of the subject thus far, that I can say nothing satisfactory to myself or others thereon ; I allude to the separation of man and wife, when admitted into the house. I must acknowledge that on first perusing the Act of Parliament, my feeling revolted at the apparent harshness ; but if the reasoning of the Assistant Commissioner did not abate the hardship in my estimate, it so strongly proved the almost *impossibility* of providing with decency for the probable numbers, that I then, as I think I soon after stated, waived a portion of my objection, which was formed on the score of sensibility, to make way for the sterner conviction of *necessity* ; and though unwillingly, I continue in the belief, that without causing the remedy to be a greater evil than the disease, it must remain in its present position ; viz. that the men inhabit the dormitories of one quadrangle of the building, and their wives another ; but it should be borne in mind, that it will *rarely occur* that this unnatural portion of the law should be exercised on such as may be reasonably supposed to lose much comfort from separation ; and if I were asked why I made this allegation, I would reply, from a belief that very few young men and their wives have any real business there ; and that *almost all the old* have an option as to continuing out-door paupers ; were the expenditure required for its being otherwise *admissible*, or within reasonable bounds, I should advocate it still ; but I have reason to believe it is *entirely impracticable*, and therefore cease from the expectation of seeing it otherwise arranged. I have every reason to believe the inhabitants of the house are treated by their superiors with a be-

coming civility and attention, and that the like propriety of conduct obtains in the department of the relieving officers, who have not only responsible but onerous duties to fulfil towards the out-poor.

I will now add a few remarks on the selection of the officers of the establishment. The Chairman should be clear in his observations, intermingling courtesy with decision; possess perfect command of temper; be punctual and persevering; proceeding rather progressively than with rapidity to explain the letter of the law; for as it is novel, and the transition sudden, if not cautiously managed, it may be considered more harsh than its enactments deserve. A Chairman should be *supported* whenever the guardians, who are certainly selected from the most respectable persons in their respective parishes, can *conscientiously* do so; though *not* at the expense of their better judgment or reflective scruples. The Vice-Chairman should be selected for his aptness for committee business; his tact at the Board meetings; his general understanding of parochial affairs; and indeed for his knowledge of human nature; he also should be punctual, and attentive to the Chairman and his brother Guardians; and it is, in my opinion, highly necessary that the parishioners who meet for the selection of a Guardian should take special care to elect one who will attend to his duty at the Board,—one whose intellectual abilities qualify him to perform the duties of his office for the parish with credit to himself, and justice to the parishioners; he should possess firmness and consistency of character; and be especially guarded against that credulity which *very frequently* is the auxiliary of timidity, and which assists in the circulation of tales propagated for the dissemination of mischievous reports; these frequently deceive women and children, and entrap the unwary pretty generally. The guardians should be men who are conversant with the condition of the poor parishioners, and who can on all proper

occasions support a question by their reasoning faculties.

To the Governor great responsibility attaches ; it is scarcely possible that this officer can command the good opinion of all about him ; first, he has the body of guardians who scrutinize his proceedings ; they expect him to husband the resources, by using every *ordered* economy, by expending the quantity of food and clothing allowed by the Board, and no more ; he is expected to have his department kept under the *written code* ; clean, regular, and methodical ; he has the various tempers of the old and young, the men and women, the boys and girls, to please ; it is necessary that he possess determination of purpose, sound judgment, a commanding deportment, and withal, a courtesy of manner, and a perfect management of temper ; with these, he may succeed tolerably well to his own satisfaction, and to that of the major part of those about him ; but should he not be blessed with most of these qualities, *his* will not be a situation of the most pleasant description with any of the parties, and instead thereof, his life must become oppressed by mortification, chagrin, and wretchedness ;—whereas if he be so fortunate as to possess the necessary qualities for his station, he is *as comfortable* ; being looked up to as the father, protector, and friend of a numerous, and grateful host of dependents !

The duty of the relieving officer is an onerous and most responsible one ; he must possess industry, good temper, with decision, and a clear understanding ; a thorough knowledge of the reputation, customs, and manners of all who are, or may become subject to his cognisance ; great industry, a *perfect sobriety*, and punctuality in his appointments ; as well as a good penman,—an active pedestrian is the best qualified to perform this *laborious duty*. It is in the power of a relieving officer to become a most useful organ of the Union with which he is connected ; or the effect of his conduct

and conversation may produce consequences of a diametrically opposite character. And lastly, a clerk, (who is a most important officer here), it is quite notorious should be not only a ready writer, but he should possess a comprehensive mind; and if he be acquainted with the common law cases, as well as those of the "Poor Law Amendment Act," he is so much the more useful, as it is not every Board of guardians which has active magistrates whose experience directs, and instructs their brethren, in constant attendance. Clerks are generally selected from men of education, and I consider by no means *overpaid* for the duties they perform; a part of their policy is to be attentive and courteous to all, and to studiously resist every temptation which might lead them into favoritism, from which other suspicions would speedily arise; much time and labour must be bestowed on the correspondence of our Boards, exclusive of the accounts, which are multifarious, and without great care become intricate.

I have thus given an individual opinion on the most important officers attached to Unions, with a candour and impartiality which I think should be always observable in writings of this description. It may differ from that of others, in some of its details, but, I apprehend, not generally, on points of greater consequence, from the experienced and practical man.

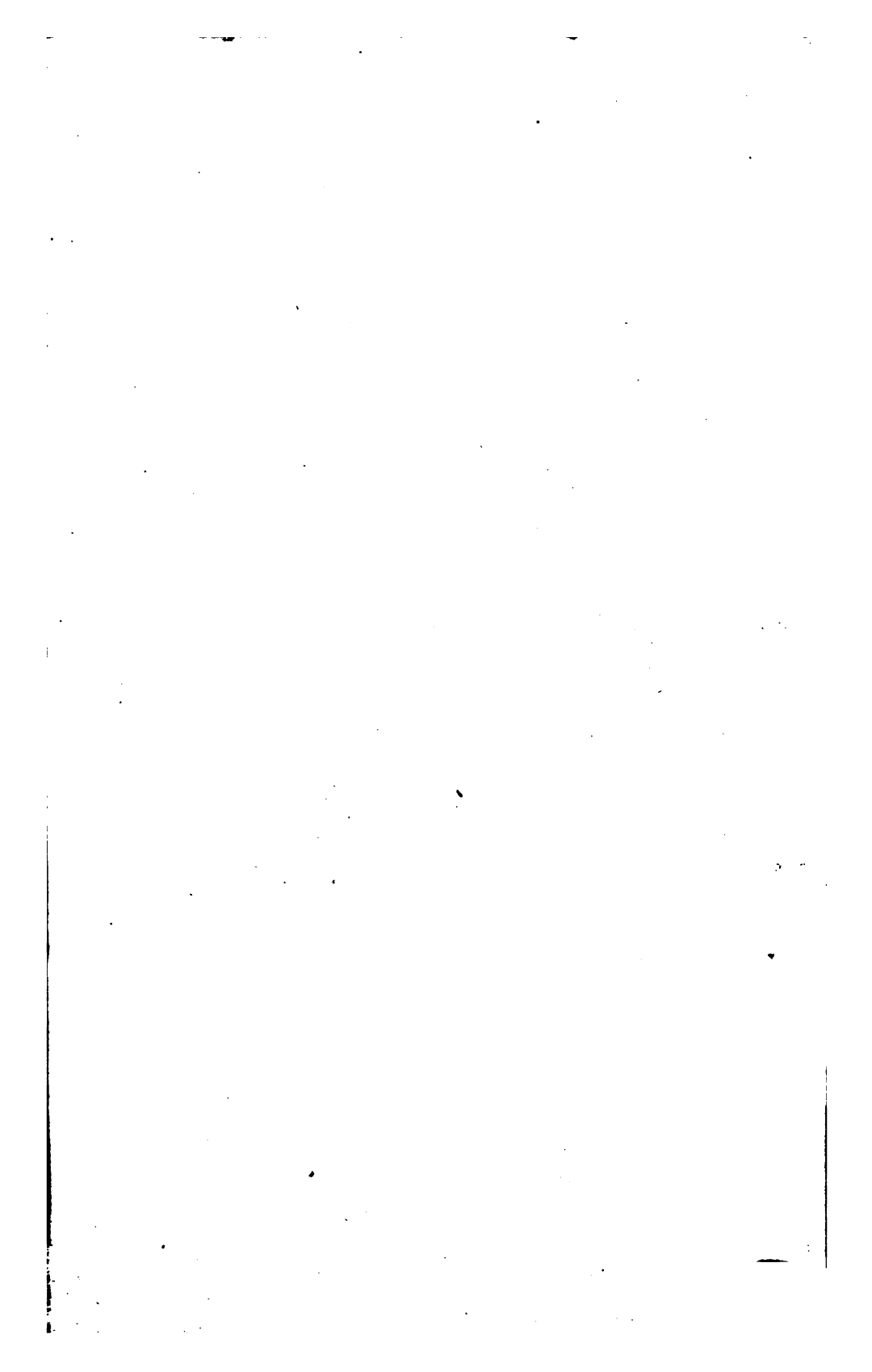
I am led to *hope* and *believe* that, if officers are chosen who possess the qualities which I have ventured to recommend, if a steady perseverance, and sound judgment be exercised, by refraining from pushing every minute *jot* and *tittle* of the law, *headlong*, as it were, into *immediate* operation; minutiae that, in the scale of real utility, would poise little more than a feather; if a just degree of lenity be intermingled with the most annoying clauses of the law; if influential persons would take the pains to elucidate points of *supposed* hardship; endeavour to satisfy the misguid-

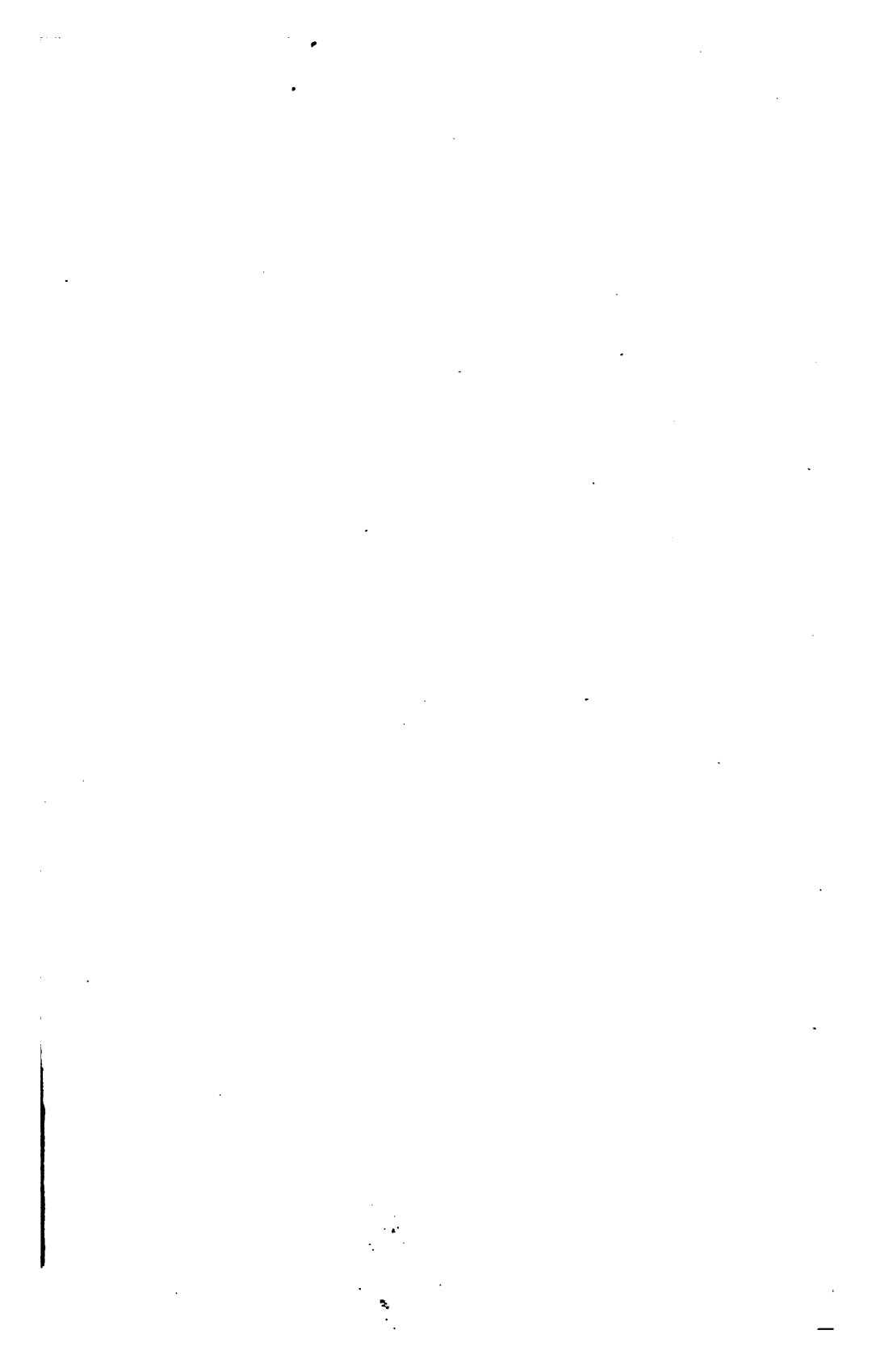
ed of their error ; use courteous and liberal *persuasives*, in lieu of *churlish and dogmatical decisions* ; *recommendations*, instead of *impetuous mandates* ; *emollients*, instead of *acrimonious pungency* and *caustics* ! If an encouragement were given to the deserving, sufficient to attract the subordonately praiseworthy ; if ultra-effort were made, by recommendation given by the landowner to his tenantry, to employ *all* the working population on fair wages from the pockets of the occupier ; and if *his* pocket had become too largely drained to effect this consummation, so devoutly to be wished ; then, to assist in this patriotic work himself ; I should then have *no apprehension* but that the " Poor Law Amendment Act " would fully realise its appellation ; be productive of a return to religion without hypocrisy ; morality without affectation ; and happiness (with security) unalloyed by incendiarism and crime !

FINIS.

ERRATA.

PAGE.	LINE.	
22	3	from bottom, <i>for</i> incolent <i>read</i> incolunt.
44	4	<i>for</i> evinces <i>read</i> evince.
47	2	from bottom, <i>for</i> from <i>read</i> to form.
50		The total of the column for March should be £1947 15 8½.
51	19	<i>for</i> 55 <i>read</i> 47.
52	23	<i>for</i> appears <i>read</i> appear.
56	6	from bottom, <i>after</i> year <i>introduce</i> (September).
61	24	<i>for</i> months <i>read</i> quarters.
61		Parish 6 <i>for</i> Ringsworth <i>read</i> Kingsnorth.
65	20	<i>for</i> was <i>read</i> were.
65	21	<i>for</i> has <i>read</i> have.
70	30	<i>for</i> lent <i>read</i> to.
71	5	from bottom, <i>for</i> all grades <i>read</i> every grade.
79	3	from bottom, <i>for</i> has <i>read</i> have.
81	17	from bottom, <i>for</i> this <i>read</i> the former.
84	15	from bottom, <i>after</i> its <i>read</i> not.
86	5	<i>for</i> they <i>read</i> we.
97	5	<i>after</i> themselves <i>read</i> it.
106	5	from bottom, <i>for</i> was <i>read</i> were.
109	9	from bottom, <i>after</i> justice <i>read</i> to be.
110	17	<i>for</i> to <i>read</i> possessing.
110	4	from bottom, <i>for</i> this morning <i>read</i> a short time since.
112	1	<i>erase</i> and.
121	10	<i>for</i> was <i>read</i> is.
125	5	from bottom, <i>after</i> as well as <i>insert</i> be.





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